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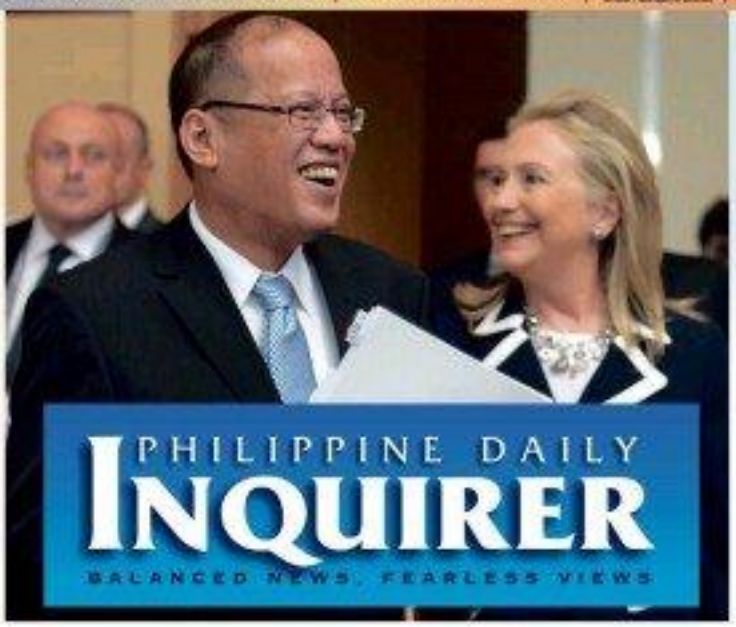


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Hu skips talks with Aquino

By Gil C. Cabacungan

RUSSKIY ISLAND, Vladivostok—President Aquino returned to Manila yesterday without meeting Chinese President Hu Jintao for much-anticipated bilateral talks that would have included their countries' territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Mr. Aquino attended the 20th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum and leaders' summit on Russkiy Island, off the Russian far eastern port city of Vladivostok during the

HU SKIPS / A10

Pacific Rim leaders back open trade / A17

APEC TALKS President Aquino arrives, along with US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, for a round-table meeting at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vladivostok. AFP

Puno out; Bartolome in

But P-Noy says usec still has his trust, confidence

By Gil C. Cabacungan

RUSSKIY ISLAND, Vladivostok—President Aquino plans to name Director General Nicanor Bartolome of the Philippine National Police as replacement for beleaguered Undersecretary Rico Puno in the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

In a briefing on Saturday night, the President defended Puno against corruption charges, saying the interior undersecretary still had his trust and confidence.

Mr. Aquino, here for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, said Puno would be transferred to a department depending on the undersecretary's preference and expertise.

The President described Puno as his "eyes and ears in the DILG," amid media reports of Puno's alleged involvement in several questionable auctions involving police firearms that were being investigated by Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo before he died in a plane crash on Aug. 18.

Mr. Aquino said he himself had discovered the overprice in the purchase of assault rifles on Google, and that this started the investigation of Robredo. He said the rifles sold below $1,000 each against the PNP's purchase price of P80,000 a unit. (See story on Page A23.)

However, Mr. Aquino said the

PUNO / A01

Santiago to summon Puno on 'jueteng'

By Cathy Yaneza

TWO YEARS since she exposed the links between operators of "jueteng" and government officials, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago wonders whatever happened to the campaign against the illegal number racket, if there is any, of the Aquino administration.

Santiago said she would summon Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno to a hearing of her Senate committee on revision of codes and laws this week and ask him point-blank with whom was he sharing his jueteng take.

"Bawal nga, I would ask him, 'Sinong kabati mo d'yan sa jueteng?' That would be my first question to him. Why would you limit around the bush? It's very clear, jueteng is already pinned to him [him] in the name," Santiago blurted out in a radio interview yesterday.

Former Archbishop Oscar Cruz, an antijueteng crusader, said in September 2010, three months after Mr. Aquino assumed office, that Puno and then recently retired PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa each received between P5 million and P8 million a month in

SANTIAGO / A23

3 awards for PH film in Venice

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

EVERYWHERE she went in Lido, Filipino actress Nora Aunor was greeted by admirers—clapping, cheering and congratulating her for "Thy Womb" (Sinapupunan), which won three honors at the 69th Venice International Film Festival over the weekend.

Aunor, considered a superstar in the Philippines, told the Inquirer in Filipino: "The Italians kept saying: 'Brilliant! Brilliant!'"

3 AWARDS / A22

VICTORY IN VENICE Director Brillante Mendoza and actress Nora Aunor show off one of the awards of "Thy Womb."

PNP nears ₱1-B deal to buy 60,000 guns

By Marlon Ramos, Gil C. Cabacungan and Nancy C. Carvajal

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is about to conclude a P1-billion contract for the purchase of some 60,000 service pistols in what it calls the "most transparent" procurement process in years. But a losing bidder claims the deal is tainted with anomalies.

"You can say that it's almost (a done deal)," the head of the PNP bids and awards committee, Deputy Director General Raelito Santaverde, told reporters on the sidelines of the 56th National Crime Prevention Week celebration at Camp Crame on Sept. 4.

In Vladivostok, Russia, where he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, President Aquino said the critics of the Glock handguns deal did not know what they were talking about when they claimed that the pistols would overheat.

"The detractors said we would need an electric fan to cool the gun because it was so hot. After

PNP NEARS / A03

GLOCK 17, Generation 4 9mm pistol
INFOGRAPHICS.COM

More questions raised on lockdown

By Cathy Yaneza

SOMETHING doesn't add up, according to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Why would the widow of Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo ask Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to secure her husband's papers a day after his plane crashed when she could have requested his undersecretary, Rico Puno, to do this?

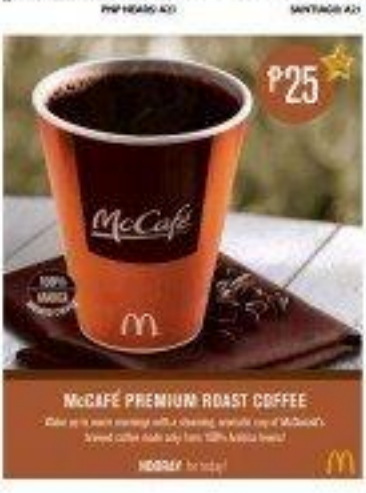
And why would President Aquino now announce he had ordered Puno to lock down Robredo's offices after news came out that Puno tried to force his way into the offices, and his condominium apartment as well, on several occasions after the plane crash on Aug. 18?

Santiago raised these questions in a radio interview yesterday in the aftermath of reports that Puno, with several police escorts, tried to enter his late boss's offices in the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Police Commission (Napolcom) and Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame and later, the condominium unit owned by the Robredo couple.

"You don't need to be a genius to figure this out. Why would the widow ask for help when the President had already instructed someone to secure the papers? The widow didn't even want (Puno to enter their condo unit)," Santiago noted.

"If [the widow] didn't ask for Puno's assistance, that means she doesn't trust him. This doesn't have to be so complicated," she said. "If (the lockdown) was an order from the President, she should not have ob-

MORE / A17



Miriam offers to draft Chiz-Heart prenup

By Cathy Yaneza

BETTER PRESENT her with a prenup before you take the plunge.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday gave Heart Evangelista, this morning's advice-seeker, that things were getting more serious between the actress and Sen. Francis Escudero.

Evangelista and Escudero have reportedly been dating for several months now.

Escudero's rearriage to Christine Flores, who was a singer when she first met the senator, has been annulled, the senator's staff confirmed. They have twin boys.

Santiago, who has taken a liking to Evangelista, admitted that she was the one who introduced Escudero and Evangelista to each other.

Calling herself Evangelista's "surrogate mother," Santiago initially demurred from making any comment about the two's relationship.

HEART / A22

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49 Lotto Result
25 9 3 16 27 14
Superlotto 6/45
7 7 0 7 4 9
4 3 8
Super Lotto 6/49
20 23 28 29 36 47
P59,778,954.00

P-Noy: Peace with MILF by yearend

By Gil C. Cabacungan

RUSSKIY ISLAND, Vladivostok, Russia—President Aquino is confident he would be signing a peace agreement with Muslim rebels within the year, with Malaysia's leader, whose government is brokering the talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), keen on attending the event.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said that in a bilateral meeting with Malaysia Prime Minister Dato Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak yesterday morning, President Aquino conveyed how "impressions that the peace process could be finalized in the next couple of months."

"In that event, the Prime Minister of Malaysia expressed a desire to be present at the signing," said Del Rosario.

Del Rosario said Mr. Aquino thanked Datuk the Malaysian's "continuing leadership" as a peace facilitator and praised Malaysia's effective brokering of the peace talks. Del Rosario said Razak had been described as an "honest broker and very proactive."

Last Saturday the Philippine peace panel successfully ended four days of exploratory talks with the MILF in Kuala Lumpur. Philippine chief negotiator Marvic Leonen and MILF peace panel chair Mohagher Iqbal requested in a joint statement that they "received substantive gains in the negotiations" through the facilitation of Malaysia.

Aside from Malaysia's key role in the peace talks, Del Rosario said Malaysia had also reiterated its support for the Philippines' position of a regional stand on the territorial dispute with China on islands straddling the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) border.

"There was a very good discussion on how to be constructive in terms of addressing the challenges of the West Philippine Sea and, I think, what was decided on that was the role of restraint would be encouraged in terms of finalization and then we will to try to move this forward," said Del Rosario.

Mr. Aquino and Razak also discussed trade issues that would enhance the traffic of goods between the Philippines and Malaysia.

After Malaysia, President Aquino also met with Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang, wherein the two discussed their mutual interest against China's alarming moves to take control of islands beyond the latter's borders.

"It was a very good meeting. It was a renewal of the deep friendship between our two countries and the common challenges that we face in terms of the disputes in the West Philippine Sea. We are looking at initiatives to be able to cooperate more closely with each other in terms of dealing with the challenges that face both of us. Vietnam has been a partner of the Philippines," said Del Rosario.

PH Navy to arm US-acquired ships

THE DEPARTMENT of National Defense intends to arm its recently acquired warship, the Navy's Hamilton-class cutter BRP Gregorio del Pilar, with anti-ship missiles, a DND official said yesterday.

The official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the matter, said the Gregorio del Pilar's weapons system would be upgraded with Harpoon multiship missiles...described as a modern, all-weather, over-the-horizon defense system.

The Gregorio del Pilar is decommissioned US Coast Guard cutter, was acquired last August as the Navy's flagship vessel. Although "combat ready" the US stripped the warship of its most sensitive armaments.

The Navy is getting another Hamilton-class cutter from the US, the Coast Guard cutter "Dallas," and this would also be fitted with missiles here, the source said.

"These upgrades will make our Hamilton-class cutters more capable vessels. It will definitely satisfy our minimum firepower capability as far as naval defense is concern," the official said. Philip C. Tubeza

Oil firms cut fuel prices

OIL COMPANIES slashed prices of premium gasoline by 40 centavos a liter and diesel fuel by 20 centavos a liter yesterday following a drop in oil prices in the global market.

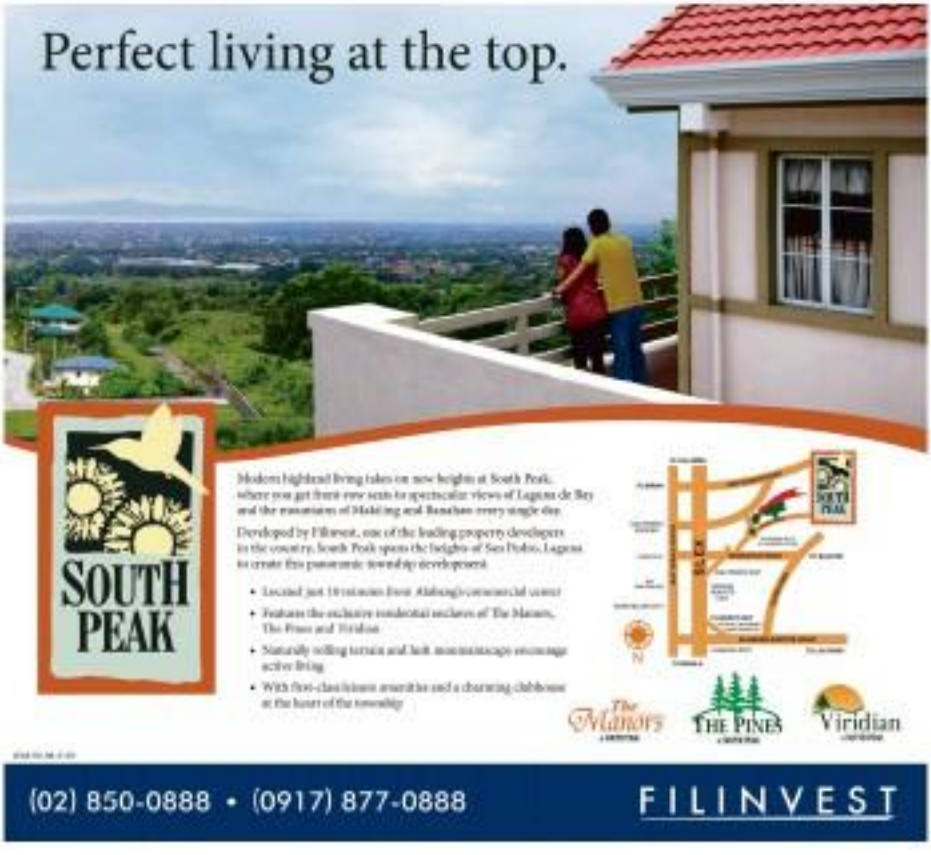
But the oil firms will increase the price of kerosene by 20 centavos a liter.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Total Philippines and Chevron Philippines have adjusted their pump prices, which are expected to be in effect today. Total Philippines revised prices yesterday.

Price in the weeks-long fuel price movements, diesel was selling at P43.05 to P46.35 a liter, while gasoline ranged from P56.55 to P58.41 a liter.

As of Sept. 4, the net reclaim net decrease in the prices of gasoline stood at P3.08 a liter, while diesel price adjustments registered a net increase of P1.97 per liter.

Last week, an independent oversight panel cleared the oil companies of overpricing their products and collusion after a six-month extensive review showed that there were no "extraordinary" movements of pump prices in the Philippines, or that the oil firms had registered exorbitant profit margins over the past decade. — Amy R. Remo



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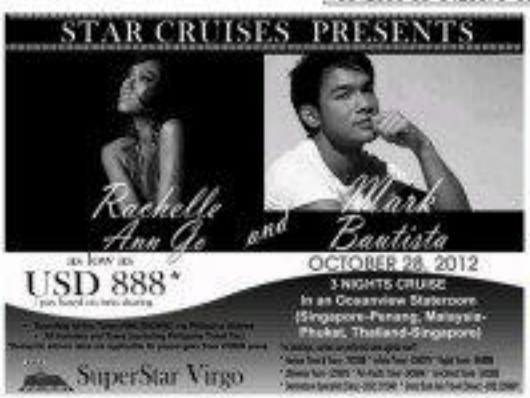

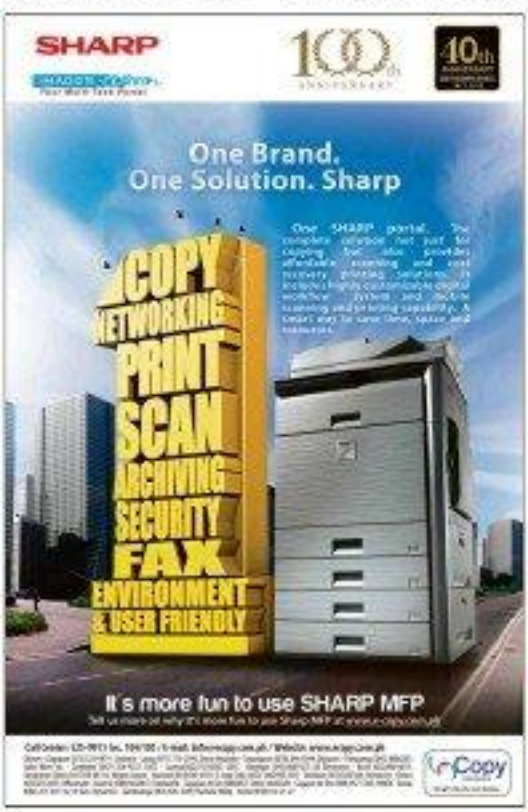

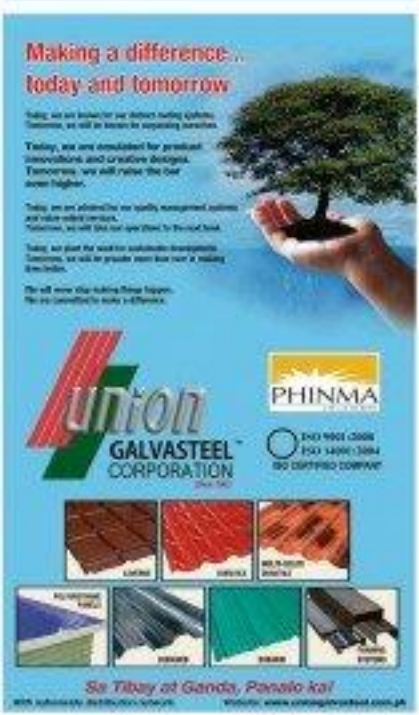

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JORDAN JESURA

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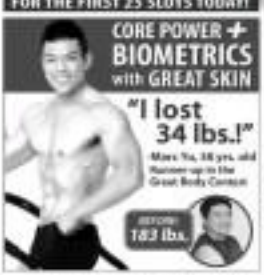

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Casiño: I'll do what it takes to win

By Erika Sauler and Lala B. Saisorria

BE CLAIMS he's not a rogue (traditional politician)—but he will sing and dance for your vote.

In fact, the second national convention of the militant Makabayan on Friday during which Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño was proclaimed the coalition's lone senatorial candidate, had all the trappings of a traditional campaign sortie with a more activism dimension.

There were political and celebrity endorsers, bands, dancers, a flying pontoon (sap bottle), and "Chinkaipins" landing inviting to kiss Chairman Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and senator/President Aquino.

Speaker Sonny Belmonte, Sen. Kiko Pangilinan and former Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar expressed their support for Casiño's Senate bid, while Sta. Lucia Legarda and TV host Noy Alcuaza gave their messages via video.

When Casiño took the stage to accept Makabayan's endorsement, he said he would engage in the usual political gimmicks if that's what it took to bring about a "politics of change" and give a voice to the common people in the Senate.

"If I have to, I will dance," cheer he gyrated, much to the audience's delight. "If I have to, I will sing," and he belted out "Mangyaring sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

Saying he had no political pedigree to bank on, Casiño joked that his last name was usually associated with running alcohol and gambling.

"Maybe I should make it my slogan," he said. "Casiño, parang alcohol, medyo sa, malungis pa (Casiño, like alcohol, clean and sweet-smelling)," or 'hope se Senado,' Teddy Casiño para sa Pilipino Bise sa the Senate, Teddy Casiño for the Filipinos."

Casiño also outlines a five-pronging Victory Line:

"In businesses that wish to contribute to his campaign, he said there would be no strings attached. "We help us because you believe in our platform," he said.

Casiño is pushing for the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law, the cultural toleration of the taxi economy, and the reduction of the value-added tax on public utilities, among other things.

Knock on doors

Makabayan, a coalition of militant party-list groups, will tap its grassroots machinery to knock on people's doors for Casiño. During Thursday's national council meeting, the local chapters pledged to deliver votes from their regions that totaled 11.44 million.

"We're happy we came up with realistic targets," Casiño said.

Makabayan fielded Liza Maza and Satur Ocampo in the 2010 senatorial race under Nacionalista Party of Manny Villar. Maza and Ocampo both lost, receiving 3.6 million and 3.3 million votes, respectively.

Shortly before Casiño's official launch as the Makabayan coalition senatorial candidate, members of the child welfare group Akap Kata gave the lawmaker cuddly teddy bears to show their support and thank him for looking after children's welfare.

Akap Bata, a member of the Makabayan coalition, said the teddy bears symbolized the group's gratitude to the legislator, who authored bills and championed causes that made lives a little better for Filipino children.

"Being a champion of the marginalized, Representative Casiño also proves himself to be an advocate of children, for the majority of our young Filipinos come from poor families that Casiño served for many years now," Arlene Brosas, national secretary general of Akap Bata said in a statement.

In a separate statement, Casiño said his platform would be based on good governance. Particularly, he would push a "Noy Pinoy, bakit Pinoy" campaign to boost the economy. He would also remain vigilant against graft and corruption.

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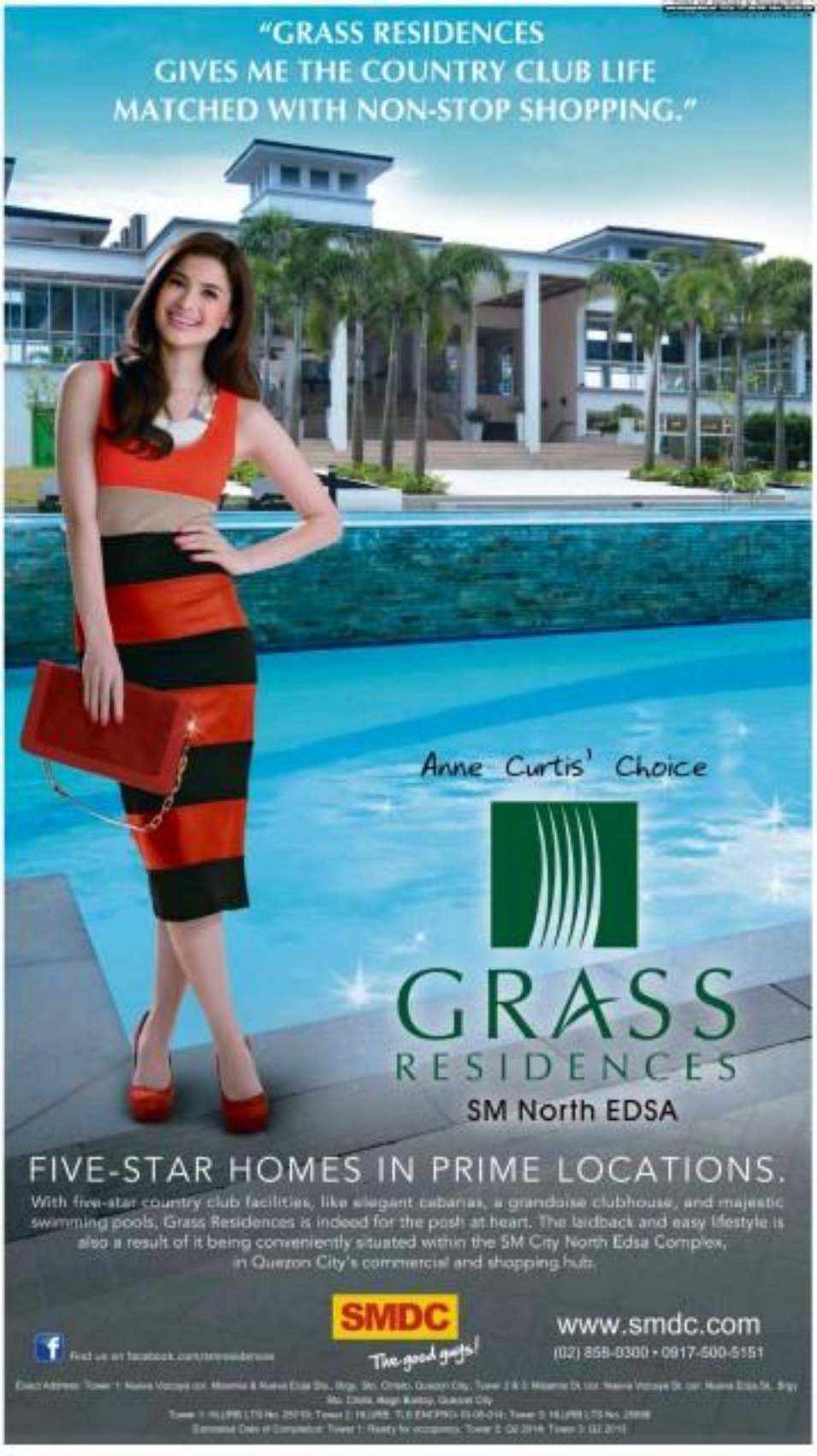

Anne Curtis' Choice

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PH has among worst roads, global report shows

By Jerry E. Esplanada

ON A scale of one to seven—with one being extremely underdeveloped and seven extensive and efficient by global standards—roads in the Philippines scored a low 3.2 in the 2012-2013 Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

In a DPWH report furnished the Internet, the agency also disclosed that out of 139 countries worldwide, the Philippines ranked a "mediocre 130th" for the overall state of its public infrastructure, receiving particularly low marks for the quality of its roads and airports.

Except for Vietnam, which scored a much lower 2.6, other countries in the region perceived the following scores on the quality of their roads: Singapore, 6.5; Hong Kong, 6.2; South Korea and Japan, both 5.8; Malaysia, 5.7; Taiwan, 5.6; Thailand, 5; China, 4.6; Indonesia, 3.5, and India, 3.4.

The DPWH pointed out that the Philippines was behind its Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) neighbors in terms of quality of infrastructure, particularly the quality of its roads.

Although there has been an improvement from the 2010-2011 Global Competitiveness report, the Philippines is still behind except for Vietnam, which may not be for long due to heavy investments in infrastructure going on in that country," it said.

With public investments of nearly P700 billion, the DPWH has expressed confidence the Philippines' ranking would improve before the end of President Aquino's term in June 2016.

P585.93B for highways

"Of the total investment requirement of P698 billion, at least P585.93 billion is earmarked for the highways sector from 2011 to 2016), "said the DPWH report.

From P71.04 billion in 2011, the agency is spending another P61.2 billion this year on national roads, to be followed by P61.7 billion in 2013, P681.5 billion in 2014, P712.7 billion in 2015 and P122.9 billion in 2016.

Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson said the upgrading of the quality and safety of the national road infrastructure was one of his agency's priorities since the national road network was the most important government infrastructure asset.

"An indicative estimate of the national road network asset is valued at P1.2 trillion. The road network provides the connectivity to all Filipinos for their economic and social activities. As such, the President has directed the DPWH to ensure that the quality and safety of our national road network is upgraded and maintained properly. DPWH funding for our national roads and bridges is being increased substantially to ensure continued investments growth nationwide," he said.

There could be done through, among other government projects, the "rehabilitation and proper maintenance of national roads, bridges and other public works to provide access to major airports, seaports, markets, production areas, tourist destinations and economic centers throughout the country."

2016 target outcomes

"Our target outcomes until 2016 and their budgetary supports are intended to achieve these targets," said Singson.

The DPWH aims to "pave by 2014 all existing unpaved roads out of the 13,872 kilometers of national arterial roads, and by 2016, pave all existing unpaved roads out of the 16,278 kilometers of national secondary roads."

The national arterial roads refer to the "main corridors from northern Luzon to southern Mindanao, interconnecting the major islands," while national secondary roads are "other roads complementing national arterial roads that also provide access to main population centers."

Malaysia as benchmark

In the same report, the DPWH said Malaysia was "being envisaged by the government to serve as a benchmark in terms of quality of roads."

With a road network of over 94,730 kilometers, 1,811 km of which are expressways, Malaysia's infrastructure is one of the most developed in region.

Its longest highway, the North-South Expressway in Peninsular Malaysia, extends over 800 km, linking the Thai and Singaporean borders.

The DPWH also aims to "make all bridges on national roads of permanent structure by 2016."

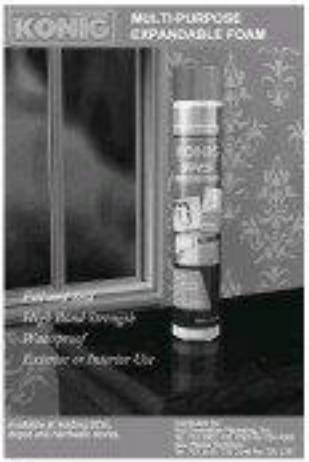
By the same year, the Department also targets the following: Rehabilitation of 50,502 meters of national bridges, widening of 12,336 meters of existing bridges, construction of 14,205 meters of new bridges, and replacement of 19,725 meters of damaged bridges.

Better road quality, safety

On upgrading the quality of national roads and bridges, the DPWH's policies and programs include the "adoption of new standards for concrete pavement thickness from 250 mm to 280 mm, outsourcing project inspection and quality assurance, developing new construction design standards, new specifications and strengthening or retrofitting of bridges to comply with international seismic standards."

On improving road safety, the agency has been "outsourcing hauling and scheduling bids, using Traffic Accident Recording and Analysis System and the International Road Assessment Program, scanning 2,500 km of national roads that are considered as 'high risk roads,' enforcing and apprehending provisions of the law, and clearing of road hazards, illegal structures and obstructions along national roads."

THE STATE of Philippine roads is depicted in this file photo of Poblacion, Hagonoy, a major artery linking Metro Manila, Bataan, Bangsan and Pili, Province, which is prone to landslides.



PH-born Canadian named to Senate

A FILIPINO-BORN economist and banker has been tasked a senator of Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reported on Saturday.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced on Sept. 7 the appointment of Tobias Enverga Jr. and four others to the 105-member Canadian Senate effective immediately, according to the DFA.

Enverga is expected to serve until the mandatory retirement age of 75.

Although the Senate is the upper chamber of Canada's bicameral parliament, the more dominant body is the lower chamber—the House of Commons, to which the Prime Minister and his Cabinet are responsible.

Enverga, who hails from Quezon province, filled one of two vacant seats for Ontario province. The other will represent New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec. They are all members of the Conservative Party which Harper leads.

"I look forward to working with these talented individuals. Their skills and experience will help to further advance our shared goals of jobs, growth and long-term prosperity for all Canadians," Harper said in his statement.

The Filipino community in Canada hailed Enverga's appointment.

"Slowly but surely, Filipino excellence continues to gain recognition in the highest echelons of Canadian civilization. So, he also has a message that will inspire other Filipino-Canadians to achieve their own high aspirations in this welcoming land of opportunity," Philippine Ambassador Lolita Catanduanes in a separate statement.

Prior to his appointment, Enverga was a program manager at the Bank of Montreal, where he worked for more than 30 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics degree from Loyola College, a Master's Certificate in Project Management from the York University Schulich School of Business, and a Computer Studies certificate from Toronto's Centennial College.

Enverga has been involved in various organizations and a member of charitable projects. He served as trustee to the Toronto Catholic District School Board. He was previously a director of the Canadian Multicultural Council. Aurora in Ontario. Jerome Aning

Pro-Life founder Sr. Mary Pilar dies

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SR. MARY PILAR

SR. MARY Pilar Ventura, founder of Pro-Life Philippines, died early yesterday morning, three days after suffering from a brain aneurysm while giving a testimony to medical and nursing students at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas in Cavite.

Reports would have turned 66 on Sept 24.

She died at 4:44 a.m. from herniation syndrome secondary to cerebral bleeding at the DLSU Medical Center, according to Manila Archdiocese communications director Nandy Tantoco.

Her remains were cremated and brought to the Good Shepherd Convent chapel at 1465 Aurora Blvd. in Quezon City yesterday afternoon, said Tantoco.

Interment has been scheduled for Sept. 12 after the 5 p.m. Mass.

The pro-life movement leader was giving a talk on Thursday when she collapsed. She was rushed to the university's hospital, where she slipped into a coma and was placed on a respirator.

Ventura was known to have started the pro-life movement in the country after the visit of the late Fr. Paul Marx, founder of Human Life International, in 1974, according to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Marx gave a seminar on the issues of abortion, which was legalized in the United States in 1973 following the landmark *Roe v Wade* Supreme Court decision, which declared abortion legal and a Fundamental right under the US Constitution.

The decision also overturned a Texas interpretation of a law considering abortion a crime.

The nun, then 28, was inspired by Marx's call, urging Filipinos to hold on to their life-affirming values. She then started the pro-life movement and became one of the staunchest advocates of life and family in the country.

She was also at the forefront of the campaign against the controversial reproductive health (RH) bill now pending in Congress.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday - September 10, 2012
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st reading: 1 Cor 5:1-8

It is heard everywhere among you, and such immorality as is not even found among pagans, that a man is living with his father's wife. And you are proud! Should you not be in mourning instead and expel the one who did such a thing from your midst? For although I am absent in body, I am present in spirit, and as if present, I have already passed sentence on the man who committed such a sin, as one together with you and the spirit, and in the name of our Lord Jesus and with the power of our God, to deliver him to Satan, for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit be saved in the day of Judgment.

This is not the time to praise yourselves. Do you not know that a little yeast makes the whole mass of dough rise? Throw out, then, the old yeast and let no new dough, as you in fact are, unleavened. For Christ, our Passover, has already been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, which is the yeast of perversity and wickedness, but with unleavened bread, that is purity and sincerity.

Gospel: Luke 6:6-11

On another Sabbath he entered the synagogue and began teaching. There was a man there with a paralyzed right hand, and the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees watched him, to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. They were looking for a reason to accuse him.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man, "Get up and stand in the middle." He got up and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, "I want to ask you all: What is allowed by the Law on the Sabbath: to do good or to do harm, to save life or destroy it?" And Jesus looked around at them all.

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored, becoming as whole as the other. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another how they could deal with Jesus.

Reflection:

There was an objection from the Pharisees because Jesus was breaking their rules by healing on the Sabbath; their position, their power, was being threatened. There are many like them, whose position and power depend on others remaining powerless. The kind of power whether this be spiritual, it is power over or against others. Jesus belongs to positions and privileges, fundamentally it is oppressive. The kind of power Jesus wants is power that's one people who have not been conquered by the gospel, it exists in the Church, where there are many unconverted. A question for a quiet hour: when was the last time I empowered someone but myself?

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Wellness

Miriam bill will put an end to premature campaigning

By Norman Bordadora

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor Santiago said she will file a bill that would keep public officials from engaging in premature campaign-building months before a mandated election campaign period.

Santiago said the bill would require candidates to file a certificate of intent to run for public office (COI) six months before the deadline for the filing of certificate of candidacy.

"It will be mandatory to file the COI2, otherwise the person will be declared ineligible to file a certificate of candidacy," said Santiago in a symposium at the Bulwagan "Amang" Rodriguez in Science and Technology in Manila.

"Once a person files his certificate, he falls under all the legal prohibitions against premature campaigning," she said.

The bill shall prevent any person who has filed a COI2 from engaging in the following: Soliciting any product or service, paid or unpaid; accepting any employment in any media outlet as news anchor, writer or talent; buying media space to advertise himself or a product or service, and engaging in any activity that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) establishes premature campaigning.

"Under the present system, it is legal to engage in premature campaigning. But not all that is legal is ethical," Santiago pointed out.

She said her bill would also abolish the provision in the Poll Automation Law that prevents that "any person who files his certificate of candidacy shall only be considered a candidate at the start of the campaign period for which he filed his certificate of candidacy."

The loophole allows politicians to engage in premature campaigning even before the Comelec-mandated campaign period, because they are not yet considered official candidates until the campaign period begins.

"Since it is not yet the campaign period, the 'untouchables' appearing in media advertisements are not yet considered candidates and, hence, they are not covered yet by the prohibitions," Santiago said.

265 OFWs expected from Syria

TWO HUNDRED and sixty-five overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) stranded in war-wracked Syria will be returning to the Philippines today after they were allowed to leave by the Syrian government even with incomplete exit requirements.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said the OFWs will be arriving tonight at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on a flight chartered by the Switzerland-based International Organization for Migration.

The OFWs, most of whom were to have illegally found it difficult to secure exit visas which require the payment of immigration fines and penalties as well as affidavits from employers.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario went to Syria in last week's trip and, on humanitarian grounds, for rule permits for the OFWs who had sought shelter at the Philippine Embassy in Damascus amid the escalating civil war in the Middle Eastern state.

Heeding Del Rosario's appeal, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad ordered that the OFWs at the shelter be allowed to leave "immediately and without preconditions."

In December 2011, the Philippine government had raised exit level no. 4 in Syria, a signal for the mandatory repatriation of Filipino nationals. Many who wanted to avail themselves of repatriation assistance, however, lacked the proper travel documents and clearances.

OWWA said in a statement it would send a "repatriation team" to the Manila airport to assist the returning OFWs.

The government estimates there are up to 15,000 Filipinos working in Syria, many as domestic helpers. So far, only a little over 2,000 have availed themselves of the government's repatriation program.

Some domestic workers reported that their employers did not allow them to leave because they had paid their recruiters in advance for their services. Others did not want to leave for their own reasons, diplomats presumed had earlers said.

Many OFWs apparently resisted repatriation because they had yet to pay off the debts they incurred when they were overseas.

Jeremaia Aning

Visayas, Mindanao to be wet

RAIN SHOWERS and thunderstorms are to be expected in the Visayas and Mindanao with an intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) in the Philippine area, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

From 5 p.m. Sunday, the weather bureau predicted that Palawan, the Visayas and the northern section of Mindanao were expected to have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms because of the ITCZ.

Pagasa forecaster Fernando Cada said the heavens the rest of the country, including Metro Manila, will have generally good weather except for possible rain later in the day. Yesterday's forecast to be partly cloudy to mostly sunny, isolated rain showers or thunderstorms.

Cada said the downpour weather system affecting the country is the ITCZ. The weather bureau has not detected any other weather system, Aumentir L Andrade said.

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MORE than just a break from stress and complications, true peace of mind comes from understanding oneself and one's place in the world. In line with the commemoration of United Nations International Day of Peace, the Brahma Kumaris is offering a one-day retreat on Peace of Mind on Sept. 22 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Brahma Kumaris is in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and the UN Children's Fund, and is affiliated with the UN Department of Public Information. The organization is a recipient of the UN Peace Messenger award. It supports UN programs relevant to promoting positive self-change and a spiritual lifestyle.

Retreats will take place in the Makati and Quezon City branches of the Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center. While the program is free, there is a minimum contribution for the vegetarian lunch. For details and confirmation, call 8907958 (Makati) and 9264273 (Quezon City).

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Thai doc: 'Sin tax' a boon to Thailand

By Nita Calleja

DR. PHAST

THE PHILIPPINE government could have generated enough revenue to build a new sky train system had it followed the lead of Thailand in imposing higher taxes on alcohol and tobacco products, a visiting Thai tobacco expert said at PHday.

But it's not yet too late, according to Dr. Prakit Vathesatogkit, an advocate of tobacco control and a former senator of Thailand.

Prakit, a specialist on pulmonary disease, was in the country for a three-day visit to share with senators and health officials Thailand's turn-decade-old sin tax law and help the Philippine government push its own legislation.

"The money we got from the sin taxes for one year alone was enough to build a new sky train system or a railway," he said at a luncheon talk with senators he met the country on the weekend.

In 2011, Thailand generated 37 billion Thai baht (or $1.4 billion) from excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products based on a single-tier or unitary tax structure.

Fourfold revenue

Thailand's total revenue rose fourfold from 1993, a year before the sin tax law took effect, up to 2011.

"Even though the price of tobacco increased five times from 32 baht per pack to 64 baht in the last 20 years, the revenue of the cigarette firms were more or less stable," he said.

The Philippine Senate's ways and means committee has been tackling pending sin tax bills, which seek to increase taxes on alcohol and tobacco products to generate more revenue for government health care services.

On Senate table now

On the Senate's table are proposals to restructure the excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco products filed by Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Pacific Lacson, and House Bill No. 5727, the consumption measure already approved by the House of Representatives.

During the previous hearing, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Ralph Recto warned that increasing sin taxes could lead to the prevalence of smuggling and revenue going down.

But in Thailand's experience, Prakit said, the revenue of cigarette companies didn't fluctuate sharply as the number of smokers just slightly went down from 12.2 million in 1994 to 11.5 million at present.

"What the tax policy did was bring down the smoking prevalence in relations to our population," he said.

The Thai doctor said the tax policy did not just help smokers quit but also ensured that children would not be able to afford the bad habit.

ThaiHealth

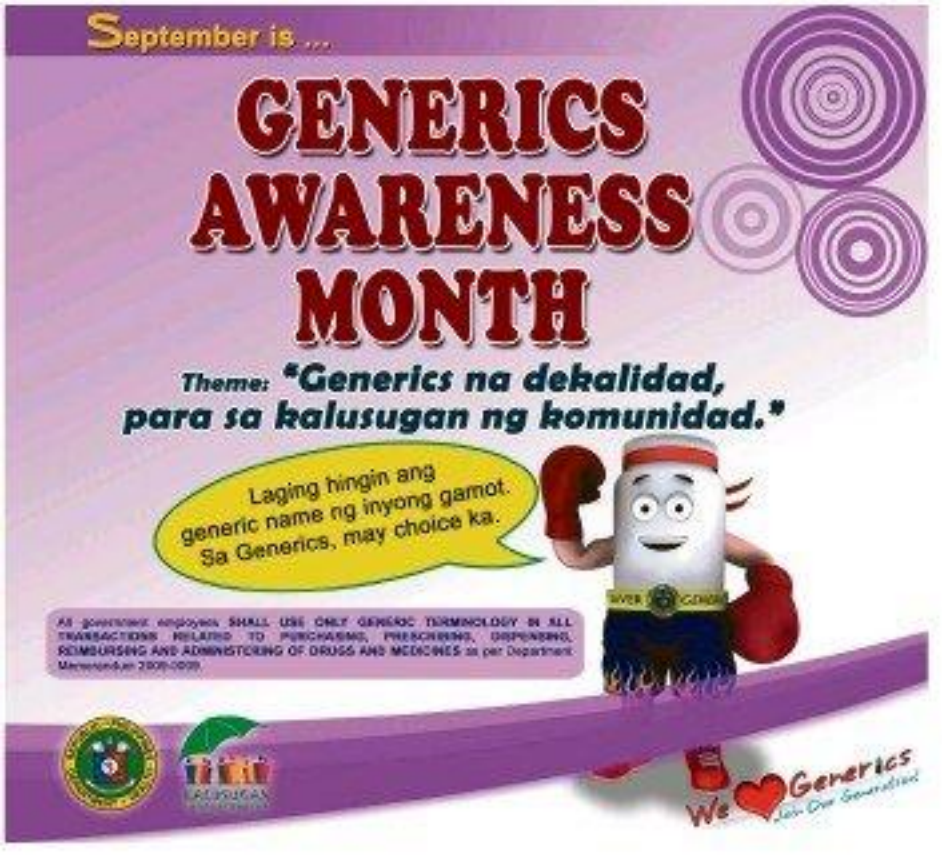
In Thailand, a health organization called ThaiHealth, of which Prakit was a founder, offers services through the government's two percent surcharge tax on alcohol and tobacco products.

The Thai tax revenue provides a budget of $130 million to fund health promotion programs, education campaigns on alcohol and tobacco control, and provisions of healthy diets and the environment.

At present, only five of 10 Asean countries—Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Laos and Myanmar—have such mechanisms to regulate tobacco use and improve public health.

"It's time the Philippines followed suit," Prakit said.

Prakit is now the executive secretary of the Action on Smoking and Health Foundation and an adviser of ThaiHealth and Thailand's Department of Disease Control under the Ministry of Public Health.



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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia
Across the NATION

2 dead, 85 hurt in Camarines Norte as truck loses control

NAGA CITY—Two high school students died and 85 others were injured when a government-owned dump truck full of young students and teachers lost control, swerved off the road and fell into a ditch in Barangay Osik, Capalonga, Camarines Norte, on Saturday, police said on Sunday.

Provincial police director Senior Supt. Jose Capingpin said the victims were returning home from a sports event in Gotesite after National High School in Osik, about 7 kilometers from the town proper, when the accident happened at 3:30 p.m. Along a winding segment of the road.

Capingpin said a certain Joseph Pascasio was driving the truck owned by the municipal government and loaded with an undetermined number of passengers.

Thrown off the truck, students Sarah Jane de Mesa, 15, and Ruben Ghenat, 16, died on the spot, Capingpin said. Dr Mesa and Ghenat were both from Capalonga town.

The injured students and teachers were rushed to Camarines Norte Provincial Hospital in the capital town of Daet, about 60 km to the southeast, where they were now recuperating, said Capingpin.

Pascasio would be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in double homicide and multiple physical injuries, according to Capingpin. Jessan Gabilos Soliba, Inquirer Southern Luzon

State of emergency baffles CHR chair

COTABATO CITY—Unaware that the state of emergency (SOE) still holds on for almost three years in the strife-torn Maguindanao, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has vowed to look into its unusually prolonged existence, saying the presidential declaration ought to be lifted by now as shown by the restoration of normalcy in the province.

"Oh my gosh, you still have the state of emergency here for that long period of time?" CHR Chair Loretta Ann Rosales said in a radio interview here.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had placed Maguindanao and some adjacent portions of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat in an SOE in December 2009, immediately after the Nov. 23 Maguindanao carnage of 58 predetermined media practitioners.

Police officials, through the recommendation of government forces swirling there province, upheld the status quo of the SOE as prior authorities wider elbow room to run after some 100 remaining suspects, mostly government officials purportedly working as just state actor of the powerful Ampatuan political clan.

"Of course, it should be lifted by now to allow the democratic processes to take place," Rosales said.

Maj. Gen. Rey Ardo, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (ID), said the SOE had helped the military in its campaign against lawless elements and criminal activities by Moro insurgents.

Ardo claimed that soldiers and police elements were able to easily seize over a hundred assorted firearms, ammunition and explosives in highway checkpoints under the prevailing SOE atmosphere.

The 103K, according to the 6th ID chief, also facilitated the capture of several rebel commanders of Ameril Umra Kato, founding leader of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM), a breakaway group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"In the time, we will have Kato arrested and prosecuted for the public to see how the state of emergency is working for the people's welfare," said Ardo, who blasted the BIFM for their recent bombing incidents in more than displaced tens of thousands of Maguindanao inhabitants.

Rosales, however, assured the public that she would have to investigate the justification of a prolonged SOE and see to it that the people's rights are not violated. "There must be due process," she stressed. Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

CamSur has new bishop

By Jun Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—The more than a million Catholics in Camarines Sur have a new archbishop.

Archbishop Rolando Tria Tirona, OCD, DD, was appointed by the Holy See as the 26th bishop and 10th Archbishop of Caceres. The news of Bishop Tirona's appointment was published in Rome on Sept. 8.

Tirona, 66, who headed the Prelature of Infanta in Quezon province prior to his assignment here, will take over the archdiocese from Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi, OP, 76, who led the Catholics in Camarines Sur for 26 years.

The designation of Tirona was announced by Legaspi himself during the Holy Mass he officiated at the cathedral here yesterday.

Tirona was born in Kawit, Cavite, on July 23, 1946, and finished his elementary and secondary education at Centro Escolar University in 1962 and 1966, respectively, where he took his degree in Philosophy. Fr. Lutz Oevermann of the Consolacion on Communications of the archdiocese of Caceres.

He completed a degree in political science at San Beda College before he entered San Carlos Seminary to obtain his Bachelor of Philosophy in 1968.

Ordination

He was ordained priest on April 21, 1974, in Rome. He was named bishop on Dec. 29, 1994, in the Cathedral and was assigned bishop of the Prelature of Infanta in the same year.

He was installed Bishop of Malolos on January 16, 1997. In June 2003, the late Pope John Paul II appointed him as Bishop-Prelate of Infanta where he has been serving for nine years now.

Legaspi, who is spending his last Archdiocesan Mass as the church head of the Archdiocese of Caceres, was president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines for two terms.

Under his watch for almost three decades, Legaspi was able to increase the number of parishes from 39 to 75 and from at least two to an average of eight ordinations per year of the archdiocese of Caceres.

At present, the archdiocese has 108 priests, 175 of whom ordained by Legaspi. Aside from the parishes, 34 religious congregations for women and eight religious congregations for men are located within the area of jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Caceres.

THE SAFETY of San Fernando Sto. Tomas-Minalin tail dike in Pampanga is expected to duke as contraction of local governments have little buffer between the structure and a newly revived channel draining floodwater away from the river area. PHOTO BY ERWIN ALEJANDRO SANTOS, JR.

LGUs told to stop desilting near dike

MINALIN, Pampanga—The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has advised local governments to stop unnecessary desilting work in the southwest of the damaged San Fernando-Sto. Tomas-Minalin tail dike because labor was being removed too close from the structure.

Desilting should be done at least 20 to 40 meters away from the foot of the road dike, said Antonio Mendoza Jr., DPWH district engineer in Guagua.

"We need to ensure the stability of the dike by giving it a buffer zone," Mendoza said.

Gov. Lilia Pineda said she had refused the instruction to local officials on Wednesday.

But up to Saturday, two backhoes of a quarry operator moved north near the Sto. Catalina section of the tail dike, which Minalin Mayor Arturo Nagtalon stopped through the police.

On a loan from the Japanese government, the DPWH constructed 8.8 kilometers to 2000 to rehabilitate the 9.6-kilometer tail dike.

But the heavy and continuous rains induced by the onslaught monsoon on Aug. 7 damaged two sections of the tail dike on the south of the City San Fernando. Mr. Fernando's labor and water in the last 13 years have almost filled the dike.

The local governments of Sto. Tomas, Minalin and City of San Fernando, through Nagtalon, have been taking advantage of the good weather for two weeks now to scrape soil used and to make the channel of Dalan Patt and Sapang Labuan creeks in Minalin. This would direct water flow toward Guagua and Lubao rivers and, finally, to Manila Bay. The water originates from Gapo Creek that enters PVB Megaville.

Pineda said the provincial government had allocated P16 million for the desilting activities to ease flooding in areas near the tail dike.

However, the distance between the dike and the natural channel of the two creeks varied from a meter to 5 meters on a 5-km stretch, a check by the inquirer on Saturday showed.

Nagtalon said the revised channel built in Minalin twice became a diversion canal here open on Plaridel-bing letting waste flow toward the City of San Fernando and Sto. Tomas again.

As a result, the villages of San Pedro Cutud, San Isidro and Sindalan in San Fernando and Saguin in Sto. Tomas were flooded again.

Mendoza said DPWH would begin rechannelling the downstream of Gapo Creek and start repairing the tail dike's damaged portions.

He said the National Economic and Development Authority had approved P272.19 million for the tail dike projects from one of the P5 billion that the Aquino administration has set aside for high-impact flood control interventions. Rosette Orejan, Inquirer Central Luzon

Priest calls on Roxas to fulfill Robredo promise

IMMOD CITY—A leader of the Justice for Father Pops Movement said they were calling on Mar Roxas, the new interior secretary, to investigate the Bagani group as Robredo "said promised" in the demise of his continued to prevail over Ambon.

Dominic, an Italian missionary from the Franciscan Institute for Foreign Missions (Pime) said nine days before Robredo died on Aug. 18, the late DILG secretary had sent him a text message informing him that he had ordered the Cotabato police to clash with the Bagani group operating in the boundary areas of Bukidnon, Davao and Cotabato.

"I have directed the provincial director of the Cotabato police to make plans to deal with the operations of group Bagani," said Robredo in a text message to Caritas on Aug. 9.

"But this may have to be rephrased after the BIFF (Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters) threats subside," Robredo added, referring to the Moro rebel breakaway group led by Ameril Umra Kato.

One of the Bagani leaders had been pointed by some witnesses as among the suspects behind the killing of Italian priest Fr. Fausto "Pops" Tentorio.

Also killed in a two-video Bagani leaders by the Non People's Army in July prompted the group to declare a gangwar (tribal war), allegedly targeting militant armed groups Pentamoro Kidnapping Liberating Peoples and the Ambas Progressive Peasant Organization in Arakan, and Church leaders including terrorists.

Staff members from the Justice for Pope Movement said Caritas was supposed to say Mass in Mati, a place near Barangay Dahig in Arakan, early in August this year, but people had prevented him from going to the area following Bagani's declaration of purgrave. That was when Caritas had contacted Robredo about his refusal and Robredo promised to look into the problem after the BIFF problem subsided.

On Aug. 12, private prosecutors for the Tentorio case, through the Diocese of Kidapawan and the Pime fathers, indicted Bagani leader Jun Corbala, also known as "Commander Ding," and four other Bagani members, as among the suspects in the new charges that they filed.

The group is pending for the inclusion of Corbala, based on the testimonies of new witnesses who came out.

But Caritas said they were worried because the group was still allowed to roam the area fully armed, even threatening Church workers in person the government to close his name, or else blood would spill again in Arakan.

"The climate of fear continues in Arakan, where the Bagani accused of the Tentorio killing are still going around the area with impunity," Caritas lamented. Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao

Comelec rejects Jalosjos vote bid

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has rejected a bid by Romeo Jalosjos, a convicted child rapist released from prison in 2005 after serving a sentence discussed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to register as a voter here.

The rejection in effect put a lid on the former Zamboanga del Norte congressman's stated desire to run for mayor of the city next year.

Joseph Ian Tria, election officer of the Comelec's District 2, disclosed on Wednesday that Jalosjos had sought to be registered as a voter in the city's Barangay Putik, where he has been residing, and that his application was rejected on Friday.

"We are not questioning his residency. The board decided to disapprove his application based on Section 11-A of Republic Act 8189," said Tria, who also chairs the district's election registration board (ERB).

Under that law, "[to say], a person who has been sentenced by final judgment to imprisonment of more than a year can vote only five years after serving his sentence," Tria said, adding Jalosjos would be eligible to register again as a voter in 2015.

Jalosjos, who has formed the movement Zamboanganon for the Transformation of Zamboanga (ZTZ), has openly declared his intention to run for mayor next year despite his apparent disqualification from holding public office.

Jalosjos said he would take the matter to the Court of Appeals and even to the Supreme Court.

He served members of the 10th of his crowd Zamboanga City Rep. Ma. Isabelle Climaco Salazar, who has declared her intention to run for mayor and was among those opposed to Jalosjos' registration as a voter in the city.

Salazar told the business her registration was "tainted" as "absolute" criminal record.

"When a person files an application to register as a voter, he affirms that he possesses all the qualifications. In the case of Mr. Jalosjos, he is manifestly disqualified because not registered under Section 18 of the Voter's Registration Act," she said.

Budget flights strengthen families, says airport exec

BAGUIO CITY—Budget flights are strengthening marriages and relationships as air travel has become more affordable to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families, an airport official said.

Victor Jose Lacsamo, Clark International Airport Corp. president and chief executive officer, said their interviews with OFWs passing through Clark International Airport in Pampanga showed that many of them have been returning to the Philippines for vacations several times in a year due to cheaper flights.

"Before, they can afford to go home maybe once a year. Now, they can go home five times a year. It also lessens the other way around, with their families visiting them in their places of work abroad. You multiply that and our transfer income in the transfer," he said.

CLARK International Airport

"This transformation is happening because of aviation developments in the country and you can multiply that in terms of economic activities because budget travel has become affordable for everybody," Lacsamo told delegates of the 21st North Luzon Area Business Conference here on Friday.

He said the Clark airport already has the most number of budget airlines in the country as compared to Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Metro Manila and Mactan Cebu International Airport in Cebu.

From the Clark airport, passengers can take international flights to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Incheon, Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur, Macau, Shanghai and Singapore.

Flights to Cebu, Davao, Kalibo and Puerto Princesa are also available at Clark.

"What is the significance of this? When Malaysia started budget flights 10 years ago, only 3 percent of the population could afford to travel. But with the coming of the budget flights, now 40 percent of the population can afford to travel, and Malaysia has population of 27 million," he said.

"You can imagine what happens in the Philippines with the expected 100 million population in five years. If 3 percent can afford to travel, that's a million passengers. So the busiest areas now is shopping malls around for the airports," he added.

Lacsamo said the growth of the Clark airport, in terms of passenger traffic, has always been in upward trajectory since it started operations in 2003.

He said from 14,000 passengers in 2003, the Clark airport in 2011 had accommodated 706,000 passengers.

Lacsamo said the Clark airport greats despite the turbulence in the aviation industry. International airports, he said, are growing at an annual rate of 3 percent while in Asia, the growth is about 6 percent.

"The biggest growth was posted by the United States, which grew by 30 percent in a year. But the Clark airport this year grew by 63 percent," he said.

"The figures in first eight months of 2012 already exceeded the figures of 2011. So it appears that in November and December, we will be congested. Our terminal keeps on expanding but still we can't cope. So we plan to put up an air conditioned tent to accommodate more passengers," Lacsamo said.

From January to August this year, 806,371 passengers used the Clark airport, up from 465,717 passengers recorded in the same period last year. Yolanda Ivdela, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Cordi fabrics in New York fashion show split execs

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Cordillera weaver Nanda Capuyan is bound for this year's New York Fashion Week to display her handwoven fabrics on the international runway, alongside the fabrics of Oscar Heras, Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, Tahitian City in Bhan and London in Laguna.

Capuyan, who owns the garments brand "Nandita," said she was taking part in the Philippine fashion and lifestyle segment of the annual Couture Fashion Week at The Standard Insurance Hotel on Sept. 16.

"I spent days weaving new fabrics to showcase the Cordillera," she said.

Nanda's fabrics were turned into contemporary wear by Filipino designer Rampi Ramos and San Francisco-based couturier Joseph Domingo, Capuyan said. These would be worn by American models in the famed Ballroom show, "Island Treasures on The Waldorf Astoria."

"After this New York event, a comprehensive product development and marketing program will be in place from Mainland," she said. "I want to produce but we will come up with exclusive Cordillera designs that we can sell for the fashion capitals of the world," she said in a statement.

But what should have been good news for the Cordillera has turned political, with the anti-dynasty leaders.

The Regional Development Council (RDC) on Aug. 31 voted to allow the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to tap unspent portions of a P12-million investment information and education fund for a Cordillera trade and tourism mission in New York.

RDC members who represent the private sector believe this is a bad call. On Friday, they turned a problem paper denouncing RDC's set aside.

The Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) is campaigning for support to establish itself as an autonomous region, as dictated by the 1987 Constitution, and has been receiving a special autonomy fund (SAF) from the General Appropriations Act each year since 2007.

Two previous laws creating the CAR were rejected in plebiscites in 1990 and 1998, but Congress had since abolished on Senate Bill No. 3099 and Senate Bill No. 3135 which provide a third bid for autonomy.

The Cordillera autonomy, as he led by the Department of Tourism and the DTI, would go to the United States with Capuyan to promote autonomy there, as well as Cordillera products and investment opportunities, with American businessmen.

By representing the Philippines at the high-profile New York event, the Cordillera delegation could earn goodwill for the autonomy and win support in Congress for its third autonomy bill, said Gerardo Lab-oyan, general manager of Cooperative Bank of Benguet, who joined the RDC meeting last week.

Myrna Pablo, DTI director in the Cordillera, asked the RDC to allocate P489,500 of SAF for the mission, as well as for the shipment of fabrics to New York on Sept. 12.

Some Cordillera governors would join Capuyan's group but they would spend their own money, Pablo said.

She said New York business groups had scheduled sessions with the mission to discuss project proposals on energy and mining.

The RDC's private sector representatives, however, said tapping the autonomy fund for the New York show would violate the law.

Edna Tolentin, former mayor of La Trinidad, Benguet, and Isabel leader Peter Condas admonished the RDC, saying tapping the SAF for a fashion show may be illegal.

Tolentin said they were not against the trade and tourism mission but RDC members has been concerned about how the autonomy fund has been used.

NANDA Capuyan's collection will be featured at the New York Fashion Week this September.

At the Aug. 31 meeting and at a survey on Sept. 4, National Economic and Development Authority officials said the SAF had been obligated this year and no amount could be spared for the New York mission.

On Aug. 7, members of the RDC's private sector representatives were asked that the RDC executive committee had confirmed a Cordillera provision to waive its SAF project allocation in favor of the New York mission.

In their position paper, five RDC members, including Tolentin and Carbat, said: "[We] feel duty bound to inform you that the SAF [which the [SAF] was originally allocated in the RDC approved work and financial plan, which is for 'social preparation in the 11 Cordilleras' pursuant to the RDC priority goals of attaining autonomy and development in the Cordillera."

The group said SAF allocations for local governments were covered by memorandums of agreement and might not simply be realigned.

When asked, Capuyan said the Cordillera trade and tourism mission was a very good opportunity for the autonomy movement and she said was unwelcome.

"Nanda's is investing in over to source for its participation in the event so we see this opportunity as the beginning of a new weathering threat for the new designs, colors and textures of the Cordillera handwoven fabrics that can be the international market," she said.

Rampant trafficking of OFWs in Syria uncovered

DAVAO CITY—The government's repatriation program for overseas workers in strife-torn Syria has uncovered rampant cases of human trafficking.

The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (Iacat) said about 80 per cent of the 1,800 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) brought home from the Middle East country as the civil war there heightened were victims of human trafficking.

Most of them were from the provinces of Maguindanao, Basilan and Sulu in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Rey Bancoro, Iacat executive officer, said.

Bancoro told reporters at the sidelines of the anti-human trafficking convention here Friday that the trafficked victims were concerned following a review of their documents during their repatriation.

"Their travel documents did not bear departure details, travel stamps were counterfeited, they traveled on assumed identities and their passports were fake," she said.

Bancoro said they were illegally recruited either by their friends or recruitment agencies three or five years ago.

Place, many of them were between 13 and 16 years of age when illegally deployed to Syria.

She said many of the illegally recruited workers left the country via Malaysia or Singapore, as first countries of entry, before travelling to the United Arab Emirates' cities of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. From UAE, they went to Syria.

In leaving the Philippines, Ramores said the illegal recruits were aided by corrupt immigration officials positioned at regular airports and ports, who take a share of the $17 million per year illegal recruitment activities by organized trafficking groups.

Bancoro said Iacat has projected to uncover more cases as the repatriation of workers from Syria continues.

She said based on an assessment by the Department of Foreign Affairs, at least 90 percent of the 18,000 overseas workers in Syria were undocumented.

Prosecutor Zuleme Pajarito of the Department of Justice in Western Mindanao said they have validated that the ARMM has become the primary target of human trafficking.

Says Rodolfo Jovson, Tawi-Tawi police chief, said efforts were being done to prevent human trafficking from smuggling victims out of the ARMM province of Tawi-Tawi. He reported the several apprehensions and reverse operations had been conducted in recent months.

ARMM Assemblywoman Jim Sahaimansung said the legislative assembly is eyeing the past legislations that could strengthen border patrols for the conduct of massive campaign against human trafficking and to organize efforts and hold advocacy activities like workshops.

She said there was also a need to empower the bids registration system in ARMM to prevent unscrupulous people from taking bids documents.

Ayan Abdullah and Judy Quilon, Inquirer Mindanao

NEWSBRIEFS

■ SARANGANI

Flood displaces 2,000

ALMOST 400 families or 2,000 individuals were displaced when a flashflood hit two barangays in Malungon town in Sarangani province on Saturday.

Malungon Mayor Reynaldo Constantino said the overflowing of the Malapatan River caused the flood that hit Datal Tampal and Datal Bonglangon on Saturday night. As the floodwater rose, some residents were seen on top of roofs and trees.

Water has subsided yesterday morning, leaving the extent of damage on properties. Constantino said the Nilad Bridge, which connects most barangays in Malungon, was damaged. Most of the houses have also started to return to their homes. *Ayaka Z. Cano, Inquirer Mindanao*

■ CAPIZ

Trader slain inside resto

A 43-YEAR-OLD man was shot dead in Sapi, Roxas City on Saturday afternoon.

Witness Ed Tenegron, who was also a neighbor of Rita in Sapi Town, said the victim was hailed wounds in the chest and hands.

Police said Tenegron was sitting at the cashier's table on Saturday morning when an unidentified man walked inside the Rare-booked Restaurant, ordered coffee and after an hour, went to the victim's table, pulled out a gun from his waist and shot Tenegron. The perpetrator then walked out of the restaurant and boarded a motorcycle, driven by a companion who was waiting outside. Tenegron was brought to Dayo Emmanuel Hospital in Roxas where he later died.

Supt. Rodolfo Delgado Jr., Roxas police chief, said he learned that the victim has received death threats in the past days but chose not to report it. *Felipe Calma, Inquirer Visayas*

Soldier killed in clash

A SOLDIER was killed in an encounter on Saturday between demo-positions and communist rebels in Barangay Tagapuan in Tapaz town.

PFC Rolando Bandiano, 22, and a resident of San Remigio town in Antique, was killed while about 20 New People's Army rebels fired upon soldiers belonging to the 61st Infantry Battalion who were in the mountain barangay of Tanagaytay where an encampment is situated near the area. Another Army soldier, sergeant of the 3rd Infantry Battalion was also killed by helicopter to Roxas Memorial Provincial Hospital in Roxas City where he eventually died. *Felipe Calma, Inquirer Visayas*

■ ALBAY

Vice mayor's brod slain

THE BROTHER of the vice mayor of Malilipot town was killed while his security aide was wounded when shot by still unknown gunmen after they attended a wedding ceremony in a chapel in Barangay Estancia on Friday.

Supt. Renato Bulalor, Bicol police spokesperson, said Nelson Morales, a Manila City engineer and brother of Malilipot Vice Mayor Alice Morales, was the intended victim when walking, along with Nelson's security aide Raul Capilan, a retired Army soldier, at the chapel grounds after a wedding ceremony when three gunmen approached them.

Two of the gunmen fired at Nelson and Capilan while the third gunman poked his gun at Nelson. Capilan was killed instantly while Nelson fired back but the assailants immediately fled on board a motorcycle.

Capilan was wounded in the attack which occurred at around 10:30 a.m. in the chapel grounds. Nelson and Capilan were rushed to the Daet General Hospital in Talisay City but Capilan died at around 1 p.m.

Bulalor said Nelson suffered three bullet wounds on his abdomen. Police were still determining the identities of the suspect and the motive of the killing. Nelson reportedly planned to run for mayor in Malinao in next year's election. *Mar T. Ayuda, Inquirer Southern Luxon*

School principal turns to Internet for safety woes

DAMBOANGA CITY—One of her apparent despair for the morning lack of attention in the increment danger that threatens the lives of 39 of her 233 wards and teachers, Ms. Theresa Tarrazona attended the Internet.

Tarrazona, principal of the Barangay Lumbangan Elementary School in Zamboanga City, started a campaign for the repair of the worn-out reinforcement wall in her school, the Don Lingas National High School (DLNHS).

The 10-meter high reinforcement wall protects the school's two classroom DLNHS buildings from children on the school was built in the front of Mr. Tarrazona in Lower Tarrazona in Pagadian City.

Five years ago, cracks started to manifest on the wall, Tarrazona said, increasing what was told her by students and teachers. Then, the cracks developed into larger ravines, said Tarrazona, who became the school's principal two years ago.

"Every day, I have this fear that this wall may give up because we observe experience heavy downpour in the afternoon and water is seeping into the cracked wall. And erosion is also observed at the bottom part of the wall. I don't want to wait for a disaster to happen," Tarrazona told the business by phone.

"I was informed the city government has rehabilitated it before by putting a rip-rap but that rip-rap gradually gave way because the problem is the foundation itself," she said.

Pagadian City Mayor Samuel Co admitted that engineering work would not easily be done because "even our engineering equipment cannot get through."

Lower Tabiawa is some 28 kilometers from the city proper and is accessible only by motorcycles and small vehicles, he said.

Co said in the meeting he will call to discuss the problem. "We have dispatched a team from the engineering office to conduct site assessment and how we can fix the wall problem," he said.

Co said the feedback he got was that the repair work would cost more P1 million because the wall is in the socially sensitive area.

"We directed to use funds intended for other schools to rebuild it but the repair would not be hastened. We have to follow procedures such as the government's bidding process," Co said. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Pacific Rim leaders back open trade in summit

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia—Pacific Rim leaders on Monday pledged to fend off the deepening damage from the European crisis and revive flagging growth in the region by supporting open trade, reforming their economies and strengthening public finances.

The 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum wrapped up an annual summit in this far-eastern Russian outpost on finding strong to work together to support growth and restore confidence in shaken financial markets.

"Our truth was unanimous. We have specific results and I am satisfied with the outcome of the summit," Russian President Vladimir Putin said of the event, which showcased Moscow's ambitions to expand trade and business along its long-neglected Pacific coast.

The leaders issued a statement welcoming European leaders' promises to help stabilize the euro—which has roiled the region, and warning against "excess volatility" and distortions in financial markets.

The Apec leaders said they would work to reduce deficits and imbalances to their economies' own finances.

"The events in Europe are adversely affecting growth in the region. In such circumstances, we are resolved to work collectively to support growth and foster financial stability and to move confidence," the statement said.

"We remain committed to reducing imbalances by strengthening domestic demand for the euro's exports. Putin described the attitudes among his fellow leaders as one of "sustained optimism."

Asia, generally, is not as heavily burdened as Europe with soaring social welfare costs, he said.

"There is nothing like the problems that exists in Europe," Putin said, though he acknowledged that the region faces many problems. AP

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More questions raised on lockdown

From page A1

posted. So it's (possible) she did not trust this person."

Lesi Pedrado "knows something," Suiza said. The senator said she planned to invite her to the week's hearing of the Senate committee on revision of codes and laws, which she heads.

Given that couples traded in their details about their work, Santiago said she would not be surprised if the widow, a lawyer, was privy to "secrets" connected with her husband's work.

Santiago insisted that the widow "would not be subpoenaed" but merely "invited" to the hearing.

President's order

Mr. Aquino, who attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Vladivostok, told reporters on Saturday that he ordered the lockdown on the offices, but not the apartment, and that Puno, his shooting range body might have committed his directive.

In an interview yesterday over state-owned Radyo ng Bayan, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte repeated the President's position on the directive to Puno. "The order given to him was to seal the offices, which means that the condo was not included. We were very emphatic with that," Valte said.

Earlier reports said some of the papers in Rolredo's office included the alleged involvement of DILG officials in illegal activities, such as "jueteng" (an illegal numbers racket), illegal logging and irregularities in the purchase of firearms for the PNP.

Santiago reiterated earlier observations about the anomalous working arrangement within the DILG, in which Rolredo's work was limited to the local government while Puno was given supervision over the police. The senator said the arrangement was "irregular."

Under the law, the DILG secretary as ex-officio chair of the Napolcom has "control and supervision" over the PNP.

Questions for Puno

Santiago said she would call Puno to a hearing this week to answer the following questions:

- Can an undersecretary possess an exclusive "area of responsibility"? In this case, the PNP? How have his superiors from looking into it?
- What was Puno's previous crime-fighting record that convinced President Aquino to give him such authority? He said Puno did not have an "outstanding achievement" to merit his post.
- Why did Puno recently fly to Israel purportedly to inspect a gun factory that would supply the guns to the PNP when he could have used the Internet "to research" details about its products?

All about corruption!

Media reports said that Puno, accompanied by other members of the PNP hierarchy and security committee, went to Israel to "inspect" the Tavor-21 gun factory.

"The problem is corruption," Santiago said. "There are instances when the corruption that gives the lowest bid or the best product does not win. Sometimes, the company that gives the highest commission (to the bidding committee) becomes the successful bidder," she said.

"This could involve an orgy of wining and dining and possibly even women. Normally, the company that made a bid wants to 'get' the (project) so it does everything to get into the good graces of the government representative."

Santiago said more than Puno's supposed closeness to Mr. Aquino, she strongly suspected that a "backer" with considerable influence on the President was behind the undersecretary (the duckbutt to some Puno's pun) on.

"My Puno's backer is only interested in control over the PNP because the PNP, as perceived, can also defend criminals as a result of corruption, like jueteng kuno," she explained.

Pena first drew brickbats for the PNP's failure to rescue Chinese tourists held hostage aboard a bus at Rizal Park by dismissed Senior Insp. Rolando Mendoza. Eight tourists were killed. Mendoza was also shot dead during the incident on Aug. 23, 2010. Watch a report from Michael Lee Chu.

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OPINION

Que Rico!

EDITORIAL

How DID you solve a problem like Reo E. Puno? The senior undersecretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, a close personal friend of President Aquino's, gained national notoriety barely two months into the new administration's term when it became known during the unfortunate Luneta hostage crisis in August 2010 that he had been given control of the Philippine National Police—an unusual arrangement that effectively halved the scope of responsibilities of the new DILG head, the highly regarded reform-oriented Manuel Roxas.

Two years later, Puno is in the news again, after it was replaced—again, the information trickled out despite a release he seemed determined to keep—that he had tried to gain entry into Robredo's Quezon City condominium unit, the day after the interior secretary's plane crashed in the waters off Masbate. It had to take a statement from the President himself, issued in the middle of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in Vladivostok, to place Puno's action in some perspective.

But even President Aquino's disclosure that he had ordered Puno, second in command to Robredo at the DILG, to effect a "lockdown" of Robredo's office in order to secure sensitive documents—a decision he reached, he said, after Justice Secretary Leila de Lima reminded him the first night Robredo went missing—raises more questions than Palace's solutions. Why did he, with three others, try to enter the secretary's private quarters?

Again, it was the President, all the way in Russia, who ended up offering a possible justification: "Well, he probably thought there were also some documents there that needed to be secured."

To have the President himself make excuses for you, while you studiously avoid the probing media: That is a very cozy work arrangement Puno has. No wonder. What is it exactly that recommends him to President Aquino's good graces?

This much we know: almost every time Puno surfaces in media reports, it is seemingly to test either the meaning or the outer limits of the world so dour, the straight and narrow path the second Aquino presidency is committed to.

Irony: Soon after his appointment to the DILG, Puno received flak from operators of jueteng, the lucrative illegal numbers game that continues to be a major source of corruption, especially of police officers and local government officials. He said they wanted a meeting, and he turned them down. They only wanted to take advantage of my closeness to the President, he said at the time.

And that was it. There was no attempt to send a strong message to the operators, no attempt to root out the game's enablers in the national police force, no attempt to advance the antidecorruption agenda of the President he is famously close to.

Irony: According to a DILG report already widely circulating online, Puno may have compromised the department when he accepted an invitation to visit an Israeli supplier whose Philippine partner turned out to be the lone bidder in a proposed purchase of assault rifles. The report raised the prospect of impropriety in clear terms (albeit with a dangling modifier): "Being an observer and resource person of the on-going PNP NHQ bidding, such action has possible conflict of interest in the contract being bid out and might impair the integrity of the bidding process."

The proposed purchase of assault rifles has since been suspended.

Even Aghata party-list Rep. Angelo Palmones criticized Puno for approving a firearms deal worth nearly P1 billion on Aug. 31—the same day the President's running mate, Secretary Mar Roxas, was appointed to head the DILG. Palmones, who together with another congressman had already criticized the bidding process involved in the proposed purchase of some 60,000 pistols, said he thought Puno's timing was suspect; even assuming that the deal was in fact above board, then it could have waited for Roxas' signature, he said. Why the rush?

The real background to the continuing saga of Reo E. Puno, of course, lies in the rivalry that continues to divide the Aquino administration, between the "Balay" faction led by Roxas, and the "Samar" faction led by Vice President Jejomar Binay (who is leading an opposition Senate slate in next year's elections) and symbolized by the untouchable Puno. How President Aquino will handle his controversial friend may depend on what he thinks of this rivalry.

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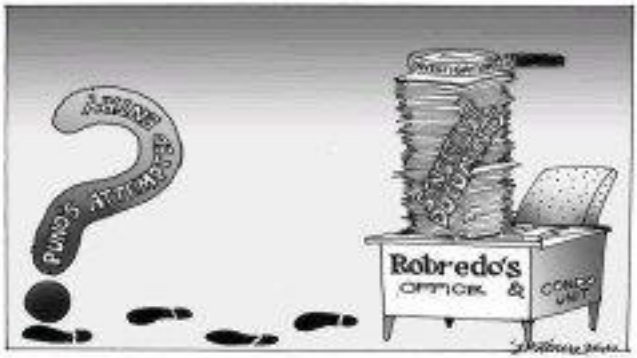

When development is good for the environment

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE RECENT floods spawned by the monsoon rains that hit Metro Manila and parts of Central Luzon have triggered widespread finger-pointing. Many were quick to blame the squatters who had built their dwellings along the banks of rivers, creeks and esteros. The problem has become an urban nightmare prompting the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and its 16 cities and one municipality to agree to relocate some 100,000 squatter families by 2016. But who is to blame for the spread of squatter colonies? Poverty and that stupid Land Law which should be repealed.

Others blamed real estate developers who constructed projects along waterways. Critics say these projects have constricted the flow of water, resulting in the buildup of water volume during heavy rains. The spillover from these waterways causes floods, they say.

Still others blamed the garbage thrown by irresponsible people for the clogging of the drainage system.

It is not hard to understand the flooding problem in areas like Metro Manila. Some areas like Marikina, Navotas and Valenzuela are below sea level at high tide. Others like Manila and Quezon City are victims of clogged waterways. Cities like Marikina and Pasig are humiliated by the rivers that flow through them.

Floods are a combination of nature and man-made calamities. We cannot control nature but that opinion is trite. We make our rivers and other waterways our garbage dumps. Erosion, siltation and garbage raise the riverbed levels, thus drastically reducing the carrying capacity of waterways. The result is massive flooding.

Mayor Jejomar Binay (Vice President-elect) has his Senate slate of Metro Manila candidates for 2013 promise flood-free, although he said he can be "flood resilient."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources was more blunt: River Basin Control Director Vicente Bulilan Jr. said Metro Manila has no comprehensive drainage plan. He said Metro Manila has only one natural drainage—Pasig River. But because it is already heavily silted and squatter-colonized like its banks, Pasig River no longer has sufficient capability to drain its tributaries like Marikina River.

The case of Marikina River, however, can serve as an example of how to address the flooding that ravages Marikina during heavy rains.

Marikina Mayor Del de Guzman blamed developers like Ortigas & Co. for the city's flooding woes. He said Ortigas' condominium project called Cavalry Verde along the bank of Marikina River in Bagumbayan, Quezon City, restricts the flow of water in the river. Cavalry Verde is located just across the Marcospitan floodgates.

A quick check confirms that Ortigas does have a project there. It is located on the riverbank, at the head of the river that surrounds the property. Ortigas has created the site since 1994 as part of the bigger Hacienda de Manila-Loyola which spanned what is now Quezon City, San Juan and Mandaluyong. The project site used to be the Concrete Aggregates plant of Ortigas, which is to be redeveloped into a high-rise condominium enclave.

Ortigas furnished us maps and photographs showing its property line and where it has started to construct a 1.5-kilometer river wall around its property. According to its development plan for Cavalry Verde, Ortigas is actually widening the river because it has to dredge the silt and garbage that have accumulated along the banks around the property.

Ortigas said that by constructing its river wall—at a cost of P300 million—it will increase the average width of the river to 45 percent, from 40.82 meters (current) to 58 meters. The narrowest width will increase from just 15 meters to 41.8 meters, and at the widest from 84 meters to 104.58 meters. It will also deepen the portion of the river around Cavalry Verde by about 20 meters. The debris that will be cleared—25,000 cubic meters or 1,500 truckloads—are all silt caused by erosion and garbage.

Not all developments are good for the environment, but this is one example where development can benefit the environment. Its widening and deepening the river—it, its own expense—Ortigas, as developer, claims it is helping address the flood problems of Marikina although it is not required to do so.

A wider and deeper river can only mean a more efficient river flow. It is a case of urban development providing benefits where there were none before. If that parcel of land were left undeveloped and unattended, we can only imagine what that river bend would look like a few years from now. Most likely a mountain of trash and silt clogging the bend.

In fact, the banks of Pasig River, the Tenejeros Tullahan River and other rivers should be redeveloped this way. At present, the banks of these rivers are unsightly backyards of factories and residential houses. The banks are identified with squatter districts that not only obstruct the flow of water, from the banks, residents throw their wastes into the rivers, thus polluting them.

If both banks of these rivers are developed into roads, the squatter districts along their banks would have to be removed, and the dumping of wastes as well as the flow of effluents from factories into the rivers would be prevented. Besides, there will be more roads for motorists in the interiors of Metro Manila apart from Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue.

Developments of waterfronts is now the rage in the world. The riverbanks in Sydney, Australia, are now lined with the most high-priced residences in the city. Other examples of redeveloped waterfronts are in Baltimore, Maryland; Georgetown, Maryland; and Grand Haven, Michigan; Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas; New Orleans; San Francisco and New York.

Plagiarizing the past

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S SO small irony that the one person who has pushed the anti-reproductive health campaign to the way it was its arrowsmith but its self-proclaimed champion. Who is Vice Santo. He took in the floor last week to deliver the final nail on the coffin. And did—to his cost. And to his cross. Going with it.

Cruz is in his heavens and all is right with the world.

He did so by being caught plagiarizing again. I did say last time that I can't fathom why people keep doing this in this age of the Internet. The days when one could slip will from others with impunity are gone. We were, you will be found out—since easily than if you kept looking at your seatmate's exam paper in plain view of your teacher.

Santo did it again, and got caught again. By eagle-eyed netizens who saw that the inspirational conclusion of his speech came straight from Robert Kennedy's "Day of Affirmation" speech in South Africa in 1966. Santo's reaction was lame than a quadriplegic. "Ako, nanonood nang mga Tagalog si Kennedy?" I know that many things are lost in translation, but I also know that authorship is not one of them.

The evidence is incontrovertible, to Michel Ekhi, the discoverer of the wrack of thought-lifting, showed in a line-by-line comparison of the English and Tagalog versions. They match perfectly, even by sentences, thought by thought, whisper-like.

"I heard the idea good," says Santo. "I translated it into Tagalog, so what's the problem?" Well, this Pontius's might have been shown on the day Miss Tapia taught the lesson, but it's like this: There is no provision with feeling on this good. There is no problem with translating it into Tagalog. There is every problem claiming it as your own.

There are exceptions, of course, such as when a line or phrase has passed on to everyday language or become that's of common usage. The second paragraph above is an. It comes from Robert Browning's poem "Pippa Passes" which goes: "The lark's on the wing./ The snail's on the thorn./ God's in His heaven./ All's right with the world!" That's an exception, Ridley's is not.

Santo says his detractors are reining on the plagiarism issue to distract the public's attention from the real vote, which is the substance of what he is saying. Well, that assertion has only dug a deeper grave for him, putting him a challenge to a debate from Antero Soriano Lesley Chandler and writer Miguel Syjuco.

That quite apart from that, plagiarism does lie at the very heart of things. The issue is honesty. The issue is decency. The issue is a fundamental respect for the rights of others. Which reflects not just on Santo but on his camp. Which reflects not just on Santo but on the Church.

It puts their credibility on the line. How can you cure passionately for the pharmacompanies rights of the nonexisting but can nothing for the very real rights of flesh and blood entities, even if authors often live pharmacompanies lives?

Due to language's role, what's on hand about saying, "Ayon nga kay Robert Kennedy [nalito kasi Tagalog], to produce the passage? Which brings us to the ultimate irony of this.

Kennedy's "Day of Affirmation" speech is hell's well-known. It is a powerful defense of the living and a ferocious indictment of those who oppress them. It is specifically a defense of those who might as well not be there given the way they are treated, the "invisible man" to Ralph Ellison called their kind in his famous novel. That is the "Negro," that is the black person, so-called invisible by apartheid in South Africa and by bigotry in America.

That is the reason Santo could not have mentioned the speech, it would have been sublime by association if he had done so. There is such a thing hypothetical about its premise, there is nothing conjectural about its advocacy, there is nothing fantastical about the people it is defending. It speaks about real inquiry. It speaks about a real opponents. Not unlike the one Senator Kennedy the Catholic Church against the faithful, not unlike the one being mounted by the anti-RH groups against the living.

The passage Santo quoted—without attribution—is a powerful one. But it is just the logical conclusion of what came before. Namely this: "The credo on which the character of this country changes places we will not yield to slander dog-eat-dog and survivors slogans. It cannot be moved by those who cling to a present which is already dying, who prefer the illusions of security to the excitement and danger which come with new the most peaceful progress. This world demands the qualities of youth: not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the life of ease. It is a revolutionary world that we confront in ..."

The "Day of Affirmation" does not support Santo's cause, it indicts it.

You remember again Miles archbishop Cardinal Sin Manila Martin Sheindenberg forth appointed the Vatican "One culture has aged ... our visuals and our canvases are pompous ... the Church 300 years from now will ask, 'Why don't we create ourselves? Are we afraid?'"

Paraphrasing Kennedy, "The creatures and characters of this dearly changing country will not yield to obsolete dogmas and outworn doctrines. It cannot be moved by those who cling to a present which is already dying, who prefer the security of obscurantism to the excitement and danger of actually having to think. This world demands the qualities of youth: not the youthful of the body but the youthful of the mind, a temper of the will, a quality of imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, an appetite for adventure over ease. It is a revolutionary world that we confront ... It's time to stop thinking of the future ..."

It's time to stop plagiarizing the past.

Conversing with a bishop

A COUPLE of days ago, Bishop Gabriel Reyna of the Diocese of Antipolo, writing under the dictatorship of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, published an ad in the Inquirer and Philippine Star, expressing his disagreement with the views of an unnamed columnist on the merits and demerits of the reproductive health bill. The regular readers of my columns in the Inquirer immediately recognized that this bishop was referring to me. I was energized & immediately in referring to me.

Not that I object to the references or to being quoted. In fact I welcome the bishop's and anybody else's or to introduce my dialogue among Christians, high and low, is highly encouraged by the Church today. "In this modern world, the second is not this" Vatican officials would argue (and was) who disagree with a church teaching, but rather that such engagement is regarded as taboo."

The bishop takes exception to my statement that "the state should not prevent people from practicing responsible parenthood according to their religious beliefs since they contribute taxes" President Aquino, by whatever means, to prevent people from acting according to their religious beliefs." The bishop says that by "saying that [the] state should not prevent [people] from practicing responsible parenthood according to their religious beliefs since they contribute taxes" I [the] state should not

A promise yet to be fulfilled

At AN April 26, 2010 income article, "Higher education budget under 12-year freeze," a candidate for vice president, who is now the former secretary, said that if he and his running mate, candidate for president Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III won the 2010 elections, they would increase the budget for education by up to 4 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

A few days from now, the appropriation for education will be deliberated in Congress. While there is a remarkable increase in the education budget, the education allocation, as proposed by the Department of Budget and Management for 2013 is a far cry from the 4.6 percent commitment made by candidate Noynoy two years ago.

However, simple logic explains why only 2.3 percent of the GDP has been allotted for education for the past four years: the 4.6 percent appropriation promised by education was made on the assumption that both candidates, Aquino and Roxas, would win. Given that only one-half of the two-man tandem won, it stands to reason that only half of the promised 4.6 percent allocation would be considered due.

Adding salt to the emphasis on the 4 percent, the national government's allowance for education is a reflection of its priorities and thus the government is clearly not investing that much—3.6 percent of the GDP—in the future youth, as promised by candidate Noynoy. Since the international recognition in 1990 of the Unesco Delors standard, where 6 percent of the national income must be allocated for education, the Philippines has consistently not been meeting the ideal spending for education. Instead, politicians will always be politicians. They will try to please you by saying things you want to hear and showing you things you want to see. But they will never deliver their part of the bargain; thus, it is necessary on our part to demand accountability.

With the coming midterm elections, many promises will be made, but it is only the discerning few aware of the current administration, it is has failed to defend Iloilo its officials from social services and to make sure that what they promise on the campaign trail they will carry out. Otherwise, accountability will be left by the people.

—ERNEST FRANCIS CALLEJA,
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Influence-peddler right inside the Supreme Court?

IN FOR logic 1 columns, "Bosan a sino (more for Mike), but ..." Senator Dale Galvez asked to see "officials in the Supreme Court office, which has supervision over all lower courts," in "meddling in cases" on behalf of his friends. In a subsequent column ("Ang disaster na ng SPT" Inquirer, 8/9/12), he wrote more boring directly name individual. In the wake of injustice due to less than wise judges (insensitive bail-setting) such "meddling and backstopping" about the conduct of that official. Some of the allegations, however, would name him to public for obvious reasons. Interestingly, also, Public Information Office of the Supreme Court (PIO) has not yet to do.

Sabi ng isa sa mga kaibigan ko sa Supreme Court: Hindi ba't ang mga mahistrado ang dapat magsabi kung sino ang dapat nilang kausapin? Hindi ba't ang mga mahistrado ang dapat magsabi kung sino ang dapat nilang kausapin? Hindi ba't ang mga mahistrado ang dapat magsabi kung sino ang dapat nilang kausapin?

Kaibigan ko

Puno out; Bartolome in

From page A1

total amount involved was too small and was not worth Puno's missing his reputation over the deal.

Two days after the plane crash and while searchers were scouring the waters off Bataan for the missing Robredo, Puno allegedly attempted to enter Robredo's office and his condominium apartment in search of documents. Mr. Aquino said he directed Puno to lock down the offices, but not the apartment.

"General Bartolome will retire by March next year. When he retires, his successor will jump in the middle of the elections or two months before the final voting. And we expect our elections to be peaceful! This will be the mission impossible," the President said.

BARTOLOME

Bartolome's successor

Official sources say that former Director Alex Perez, as of the National Capital Region Police Office, who was recently promoted to chief of directorial staff as the interior's second in command, is next in line to succeed Puno in June when the PNP chief retires on March 16, 2013.

"I initially asked Director General Bartolome to consider to resign earlier. He will be given a different position so as to afford the next Director general time to get a firm hold of the helm. But, as in the PNP is sure that we have peaceful elections. He (Bartolome) might replace Undersecretary Perez," Mr. Aquino said.

The President, however, did not explain how the appointment of Bartolome would be taken by incoming Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, who has already declared he wanted to bring his own team when he takes over the department.

Mr. Aquino reiterated that he would give Roxas the "freedom" to find people who would help him achieve his mission in the department. During his stint, Robredo was perceived as sharing the DILG power with Puno who was given full control of police matters and who reported directly to the President.

The President said he had to make appointments in the DILG because Roxas could not assume his post until he get's confirmation from the Commission on Appointments which Congress is in session.

He said there would be a void in the DILG if correctly appointed by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa as officer in charge) because in two undersecretaries have to resign and the five assistant secretaries would be considered concurrent with Robredo.

"The [previous] assessments are too close to each other. There are vacancies to be filled. Should we wait until Secretary Roxas will be confirmed? Who will be the bravest chiefs to take charge of the DILG? Before they leave, we must make sure they have replacements," the President said.

Mew gov't post?

Mr. Aquino said he would tell Puno if he was still interested in serving in another government post.

"It's like going to something far different from the world he came from where he is the center of controversy. For instance, in the hostage crisis, he was pilloried and I exempted full responsibility for that. "he said, referring to the Rizal Park hostage crisis on Aug. 23, 2010, that was blamed on Puno.

The President said he was willing to give Puno the benefit of the doubt that it was just a lapse on his part [and] not "penalized" as claimed by his accusers that he allowed the bidding process for the rifles to continue despite his order to stop.

"How many rifles were involved? It's not that big. If worst it will only total a few millions. Would you miss your reputation for a few millions that you will only spend for a lawyer if you are charged? It doesn't make sense," he said.

'Jueteng' alive as ever, says Cruz

By Jocelyn R. Uy

"JUETENG" is alive as ever in the country, particularly in provinces in Luzon, according to Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz, a staunch antigambling crusader.

"There was no resurgence to really became jueteng never really stopped. It is alive as ever," Cruz told The Business in a phone interview.

Cruz, head of Brando ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said it was no longer a surprise that the illegal numbers racket still operated in the "whole of Luzon," particularly in northern, southern and central Luzon. Because the Aquino administration took the very start did not go all out against it.

"The President, on one of the occasions, had declared that confirmed jueteng was not really a priority and we wonder why. He don't have the stamina so we are wondering why?" Cruz said.

He said his group had considered on an arrest this time Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo because he stamped out jueteng in Naga City when he was mayor. However, Robredo failed in his campaign against jueteng as interior secretary because he did not get the backing of Mr. Aquino.

"That's because he didn't get the support of Malacañang to eradicate it. Why is it not a priority [of the President]?" Cruz said.

Santiago to summon Puno on 'jueteng'

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jueteng payola.

Santiago said at the time that the second collection of jueteng operators had reached P30 billion, due to a "conspiracy between the interior secretary and the police chief. They are the prime beneficiaries and ultimate protectors of jueteng."

The senator reiterated her suspicion that a "hacker" responsible for Puno's appointment to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) could be the reason jueteng continued to flourish despite officially announced government efforts to eradicate it.

Calling jueteng "the first petition of the DILG," Santiago said the illegal numbers game remained hard to wipe out because of the continued collection of money in operations and the government officials tasked with eliminating it.

Asked whether Puno, as the DILG official given supervision over the Philippine National Police, was guilty of "inaction" against jueteng, Santiago replied, "Absolutely!"

"Nacking a happening in the surrounding cities where that's supposed to be the main thrust of police work. In addition to peace and order, that should be the most important," she noted.

Huge monthly bribes

Santiago said a portion of jueteng collections served as the source of "huge monthly bribes" that corrupted and bound their users to the authorities.

That imagine, if you are the head of the PNP or if you are the undersecretary supervising the PNP and you are in collusion with the head of the PNP who is under you... why you could be a superbillionaire! You must be a dollar billionaire every year, every month," she said.

The senator added that if a government official on the take from jueteng operators shared his loot with colleagues, "they would just follow your orders. You won't be assailed and you would become untouchable. That's what happened to Puno."

Atong Ang et al.

Santiago's complaint about inaction against jueteng apparently stems from a privilege speech she gave in September 2010 in which she named Atong Ang, an associate of ousted President Joseph Estrada, as the top jueteng operator in four of five regions where the numbers game was played around the country.

She said other prominent operators at that time included Danny Sotelo, Bong Pineda, Aging Limin and Tony Boy Suzuki.

The senator wondered then why Ang did not make the list of Cruz who, as head of the People's Crusade Against Jueteng, drew up the list of jueteng operators and their beneficiaries.

Santiago gave a PowerPoint presentation then in which photos of Puno, Soriano and former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno were flashed onscreen.

P300M for DILG, PNP chiefs

Santiago said she had information then that the interior secretary and the PNP chief shared P600 million between themselves, a drop in the bucket compared with the yearly receipts.

She said it was important that the new DILG head would not succumb to the temptations offered by jueteng operators.

"The DILG is very important. You would notice that the crusade from prior administrations came from the DILG because they control jueteng. Imagine, the game rums hundreds of millions all over the country through the PNP. That's why the PNP benefits from jueteng. That's why they cannot eradicate it. The secretary of DILG chairs in the loot as a general rule," she said.

Santiago said the one secretary that the Aquino administration needed to explain was why supervision of the PNP was duly shifted to an undersecretary specifically Puno.

"Puno is like a miracle figure in the bureaucracy. He can decide the functions of the secretary. It's not like the secretary relinquished to them his functions with his undersecretaries. It wasn't that way at all," the senator pointed out.

Santiago said Perez's alleged hacker could be emitted for his seemingly secret position in the DILG.

"Mr. Perez's hacker is only interested in controlling the PNP because it is the agency that processes and defends big interests, trials behind corrupt activities in the government," she said.

GROUP SHOT Leaders from Pacific Rim nations pose for a group photo on the final day of the Apec summit in Vladivostok. From left: South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Chinese President Hu Jintao, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Peruvian President Ollanta Humala, Australian Trade Minister Craig Emerson, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, Taiwanese Special Envoy Lien Chan and Hong Kong Financial Secretary John Tsang

Hu skips talks with Aquino; Apec summit ends

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weekend. His plane landed in Manila at 5:35 p.m., 40 minutes only because of a call mist.

In a five-minute arrival speech, the President said the Apec goals—make regional investments and trade strategies productive, the supply chains continuous and financial systems able to withstand crisis—remained on track.

Speaking in Filipino, Mr. Aquino reported his meetings with the leaders of Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Chile.

"We have successfully explored the new face of the Philippines: more open to business opportunities, fairer to those who are ready to invest and a lucrative center of commerce and trade not just in the Asia-Pacific but in the whole world," he said.

Mr. Aquino said this had been expressed in more on Sunday before the close of the Apec host ver' summit.

Question of time

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario on Saturday said that the format for the meeting had been "finalized" and only the time for the two leaders to sit down for the talks remained to be worked out.

Sunday came, the summit swapped up its business, and the host, Russian President Vladimir Putin, said goodbye to 20 other Asia-Pacific leaders, but He remained scarce.

"It just came to a scheduling challenge, but as you can see the scheduling challenge treated me to be a biggest challenge I had ev anticipated," Del Rosario said.

Mr. Aquino's aides had said beforehand that a meeting with Hu was his top priority for the summit.

Rival claims

China claims sovereignty over nearly all of the West Philippine Sea, which is believed to hold vast amounts of oil and gas, is a rich fishing ground, and is home to shipping lanes worth trillions in trade.

But the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan also claim parts of the sea, some claims overlapping, and Manila and Hanoi accuse Beijing of a campaign of intimidation.

Tensions between the Philippines and China have been persistently pronounced, rising dramatically in April when vessels from the two countries faced off with each other at Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal), a rich fishing ground within Manila's 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone.

The Philippines stepped back from the standoff in June due to stormy weather, but Mr. Aquino said he would order government vessels to return to the shoal unless the Chinese cleared out.

Chinese ships are reportedly still at Panatag Shoal.

Missed opportunity

Mr. Aquino said He had been expected to touch on the dispute during their talks, and Del Rosario said it was more time to secure a meeting before the 1 p.m. (1 p.m. Manila time) close of the summit but the Chinese leader's schedule, which included a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper Sunday morning, was locked.

"Our schedules just didn't jibe with each other," Del Rosario said.

"We are each other tactics but we didn't have the chance to talk," Mr. Aquino told reporters on Saturday night. "So (leaders') retreat [on Saturday] had already started before we saw each other. I didn't see him actually at the cocktails before we had dinner. I think he was also busy with his own bilateral meetings," he said.

The President met Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, Indonesian and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Saturday and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang on Sunday.

Mr. Aquino also reserved flight left for Manila at 6 p.m. (11 p.m. Manila time).

P-Noy disappointed

Del Rosario said the President was disappointed. "I think that a lot could have been achieved in terms of a meeting between the leaders for them to be able to share the various points of view and I think that the probably is not only a downside for the Philippines but also for China, I think," Del Rosario said. "It's a missed opportunity," Del Rosario said.

The failure of the Aquino-Hu talks contrasted with discussions the Chinese leader had with the leader of Vietnam, which a Chinese government spokesperson described as "cordial."

He also met with the ruling of Brunei, which is less vocal in asserting its claims, and the representative of Taiwan.

In a briefing for the press today night, Mr. Aquino said he planned to have a "frank exchange of thoughts" with Hu to "alleviate the talks from diplomatic niceties."

The President's last meeting with Hu was during his overseas to China in August last year. Since then, their exchanges have been limited through Philippine and Chinese ambassadors.

"I won't say it's a warmed-up relationship, but at least it's [we exist] than what it was," Mr. Aquino said.

Risky strategy

He said he would rather agree to disagree on things that divide us in the two countries, specifically the West Philippine Sea dispute, while moving forward on more negotiable matters.

He also said that bringing up the territorial dispute to the United Nations could be more risky than it looked.

"I was told by all the lawyers I talked with that since we entered into litigation, we can win but we can also lose," Mr. Aquino said.

The President said some Apec leaders offered advice that no political leader in his right mind would abandon something that his predecessors had claimed as theirs.

"Nobody can give up their sovereignty just like that," Mr. Aquino said. "The political cost will not be bearable by whoever proposes it. If I puts up even the semblance of our national territory, I'm sure there will be many who will impeach me."

Neighbors' support

Speaking at the airport after his arrival on Sunday, Mr. Aquino said the leaders of Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam extended to the Philippines "warm support" on matters pertaining to the West Philippine Sea.

He said Chilean President Pinera invited him to visit Chile for discussions of investments in aquaculture and mining, exchange of geothermal energy technology and deployment to Chile of Filipino teachers of English.

Mr. Aquino said the international community was abuzz with talk that "the Philippines is now very different, more developed than others."

He told Filipinos should be ready to contribute to increasing globalization by remembering the country's economic horizons that might hamper further development. With a report from AFP

3 awards for PH film in Venice International Film Festival

From page A1

Her latest starrer, Brillante Mendoza's "Thy Womb" won three awards in Venice: Best: D'Oro, La Starlette ay Venezia Cinema prize and the F Marcarino Subiti Award Special Mention.

Actress attended the Venice hat with Mendoza and actress Lou Pao and Mercedes Cabral.

Producer Larry Castillo said the crews selected Asianor who won the Biasio D'Oro prize for her performance. Castillo said the Encinias find Asianor's award was given by Premio della Critica Indipendente, an independent critics' group.

Festival recipients of the award were directors and producers. Asianor is the first actress and Filipina to win the prize.

Asianor recalled that the Biasio D'Oro ceremony was held on Friday at Rai Studi, a compound near Venice.

The Philippine contingent stayed at the Hotel Excelsior Venezia in Lido, Venice.

"I am happy that one film was tested in Venice. It's a great honor just to be included in this year's lineup. To win an award is a wonderful bonus," Asianor said of her award.

She said the crews were touched by the film. "They told me that they cried, especially toward the ending. They said they were moved by the emotions I showed in the movie."

La Navicella award

On Saturday morning, Mendoza received La Navicella Venezia Cinema prize—one of the collateral awards handed out before the fest's major honors.

According to the Venice website, the award is given by artists and the Fondata dal Cinematografo, an Italian publication. "La Navicella is awarded to the director of a film considered particularly relevant for the affirmation of human values," an online report said.

A previous winner of the La Navicella award was Kathryn Bigelow's "The Hurt Locker," which went on to win an Oscar in 2010. Other past winners of the prize included such heavyweights as model-costume-art Lanvin Malle, Zhang Yimou, Stephen Frears and Abel Ferrara.

The Navicella jury commended the Filipino film "for giving voice to the Badjao community in a respectful and emotionally involved manner."

In the film, Asianor portrays a barrio Badjao midwife searching for a suitable woman. Don't who can bear a child for her husband Bhimbol Bonol.

Taddei award

In the citation, the Navicella jury praised the film. "Although ... ethnographic, the film goes beyond naturalism and Lola ires poetry Mendoza brings to the screen an act of total love which stands out today as true scandal against frivolous preconceived notions."

During the closing ceremony on Saturday night, Mendoza won the F Marcarino Taddei Award Special Mention.

The F Marcarino Taddei award went to Korean filmmaker Kim Ki-duk's "Pieta," which won the Golden Lion as well.

Established in 2007, the F Marcarino Taddei Award was named after a Jesuit priest. It is given to films that "express an Christian humanist values."

The Hollywood reporter critic Neil Young considered Asianor one of the three runners for the best actress award, which went to Israeli's Hadas Yaron of "Fill the Void."

Although it failed to bring home major awards, "Thy Womb" received a rousing ovation after its premiere on Thursday and was showered with glowing notices by critics.

Mendoza, who won best director in Cannes for the graphic crime drama "Kinatay" in 2009, said his goal in making "Thy Womb" was to tell a story of "unconditional love set in a beautiful but troubled place."

Variety review

Motion picture publication Variety gave the film a positive review, praising the cinematography of Odyssey Flores, acting (by Asianor) and production design (by Mendoza).

Variety's Guy Lodge said Mendoza's subtly crafted film beautifully captures the bittersweet pain of how events decisions in this extreme process," Lodge said the cinematography "impeccably captures post-coital shiny and grubby both-halves with equal flexibility" and the production design "merges the tattered story with just the right balance of the exotic and the authentic."

Satory described the film as "part marital tragedies, part cultural comedy of manners ... open hearted ... unintentional."

Satory pointed out that "Thy Womb" had more in common with Mendoza's fierce entry in 2009, "Kola," than the "propel... ive" "Captive," which was the "hand-wringing Filipino perspectives" entry at the festival last earlier this year.

Elsewhere, Jo-Ann Elmarch called the film "one of the most poignant and intimate films at this year's Venice fest ... a moving and visually captivating movie with few commanding or endeavored central performances."

"Thy Womb" also has screenings in the Toronto International Film Festival this month (on Sept. 7, 9 and 16).

On the fest's website, Toronto programmer Steve Gravestock raved about Asianor's "moving performance of a resistant force mixed to provide her husband with a child." He also pointed out that there was "equally good" as her son's husband.

Gravestock noted that Mendoza's direction possessed an "unfailingly keen eye for detail and attention to the rhythms of rural life."

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Miriam offers to draft Chiz-Heart prenup

From page B1

"I'm hesitant to say anything because I'd be making a statement about the future of someone who is head is not [not my own]," an amused Santiago said in a radio interview.

She added, however, saying Evangelista would do well to make Escudero sign a prenuptial agreement before the two of them sign a marriage contract.

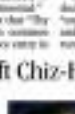
Just in case

To be sure that Evangelista would not get the short end of the relationship, Santiago offered to draft the prenup she would share her fees: "I've always advised her ... that before you sign a marriage contract, to make the guy sign up an [prenuptial] agreement first," Santiago said.

She maintained that what Evangelista thought of Escudero was her personal decision, despite the obvious age gap. Evangelista is in her 20s while Escudero is in his early 40s.

No talk yet

"But I would have to ask her, as her surrogate mother, to make him sign the prenuptial agreement that I would write down," said Santiago, a former trial court judge who is well-



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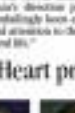

ESCUDERO

versed in the laws governing marriage and property relations.

Santiago's comments came a day after she urged her supporters to canvass a magistrate of the International Criminal Court.

Escudero let out a loud guffaw when told about Santiago's prenup proposal but would not give a categorical comment whether that was acceptable to him.

Escudero denied that Sunday when told that Santiago had indicated that she/he would take care of Evangelista.

He added, however, that he and Evangelista had yet to sign their arrangement to this next level.

"We've had [our] private conversations in the past [We have not talked about all of that]," Escudero said.

P-Noy uncovers overprice of M4 rifles

By GHC Cabacungan

MANILA, Philippines – President Aquino said he himself discovered on the Internet the overprice in the purchase of M4 assault rifles by the Philippine National Police and called for an inquiry, but that his senior Undersecretary Rico Puno was not under investigation.

"I searched Google and I discovered there were plenty of rifles selling below $1,000. So I asked: there why was $1,000 interested in PhP50,000? And that started the investigation," the President said in a news briefing on Saturday night.

He referred to what he said was his directive to the late Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo to conduct an inquiry into the deal.

Mr. Aquino said he was not satisfied with the rifle vendor, which wanted with an issue about bidders expressing interest and the PhP bidding committee ending up with one, lone qualified buyer with a bloated price.

The President said the PhP had set the indicative price for the 364 thathemmet 6-flex at P80,000 each, or roughly $2,000, which was close to half the P150,000 purchase price in the previous administration.

"That was the price of the 364 two years ago. But if you search the Internet now, you can get it for as little as $600 plus each. That's roughly P25,000 each, which is very far from the P80,000. And the rifle itself (AK Type) was not what they (Special Action Force) told me they wanted," he said.

The PNP had to change its mindset in the specifications in the bidding from 6mm to 6C.

Mr. Aquino also noted that a barrige supplier offered two years ago to set up a factory here to produce the rifle at P40,000.

"So I asked where is the one who offered as well as P40,000? Why is the one with the P80,000 the only one left to bid? When it did not meet what you wanted, why did you continue to accept its offer? So I instructed Secretary Robredo to look into this," he said.

"I wanted to ask the technical (bidding) group a simple question: Why didn't anyone check the Internet? If you can buy one piece at that price, I'm sure you will get a discount if you buy a hundred or a thousand pieces. That was something that necessary Robredo was also checking up on and, basically I didn't like the answers because it only raised more questions," he added.

"The worst thing about it is that we ordered a bandwagon but we got a bendy roadwork," he said.

The President said that he immediately ordered the suspension of the bidding "but "somehow, some person reached the postevaluation process."

"Why were you made others there was a stop order? All of those involved have been subject to an investigation and the contformed personnel were placed on floating status," he said.

When asked if Undersecretary Puno was part of those being probed, the President said only the process was under scrutiny.

PNP nears ₱1-B deal to buy 60,000 guns

From page A1

firing 5,000 rounds in one day. But any gun you fire that much in a short period will heat up," said the President, a gun enthusiast.

"The pistols met all the criteria. It's the standard pistol for over 60 percent of the law enforcement in America as well as others countries. Our goal is to have one standardized fire," Mr. Aquino said.

The procurement of firearms is part of the PNP Capability Enhancement Program whose goal is to provide every police officer with his or her own handgun.

One of the bidders said over the weekend that Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno had been tracked the firearms contract before the newly appointed Interior Secretary Mar Roxas could assume office and before Puno could be removed from his post.

Because he had supervisory powers over the PNP Bureau of Fire Protection and the rest of Jail and Management, Puno had exclusively over the award of contracts for the modernization projects of these agencies. (The President announced the ouster of Puno yesterday.)

Sarmiento said PNP Director General Nicanor Bartolome had signed the notice of award to Glock Asia Pacific and its local partner, Imus Trades for the contract.

"After (Bartolome) signed the notice of award, we will have a contract signing and the issuance of a notice to proceed. The whole process will be concluded soon," he said.

Ministerial

Sarmiento stressed that the signing of the contract, Sarmiento said the joint venture between Imus Trade and Glock Asia Pacific, and the PNP had submitted all the needed documents.

"But we have to resolve all motions for reconsideration filed by the losing bidders, although the down's nothing more they can do," he said.

Sarmiento said Bartolome approved the notice of award after the winning bidder's Glock 17 Generation 4 9mm pistols passed the stringent nine-step test set by the PNP.

The PNP monitored Imus Trade's offer after it disqualified the original winning bidder, R. Espreille, and partner Israel Weapons Industry, for their failure to comply with the documentary requirements.

Espreille proposed the lowest bid to supply the PNP with 39,000 handguns for P974 million, which would have saved the government P218 million.

Imus Trade and Glock Asia Pacific submitted the second lowest bid of P997 million for the purchase of 39,000 Glock 9mm pistols.

Chief Supt. Generoso Cerbo Jr., PNP spokesperson, earlier claimed that the bidding process for the gun purchase was the most transparent that the police organization conducted in recent years.

'Model' for future bidding

Cerbo said the savings that the PNP would generate from the guns deal would be used to procure police vehicles and communications equipment for improve its ground mobility and capability.

"In fact, we will make this a model for our future bidding projects," Cerbo said, shrugging off allegations that the PNP broke some of its own bidding rules to favor Imus Trade and its foreign partner.

But the Commission on Transparency for Iron Transparency, according to Victor Ua Hong, sales manager of Inkosweld Trading.

Chong said the deal had been given to the group of Jocelyn Imus of Imus Trade and Glock Asia Pacific on Aug. 21, the same day Mr. Aquino announced the appointment of Roxas to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

"Unknown to us then, in the interim following the untimely demise of Secretary Jesse Robredo and before we could assume office as secretary of the DILG, PNP Director General Nicanor Bartolome issued the award of contract," Chong said in a letter to Roxas.

He said the notice was also received on the same day by Jose, director for marketing and operations of Trust Trade, which holds office at Unit 22 Emilirio Center, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Bartolome signed the notice of award in his capacity as PNP chief and purchaser of the firearms.

The supposed two-year timing of the issuance aside, the notice of award itself tends to render as fait accompli the anomalous transaction by the time you assume office," Chong said in the letter.

He said that Roxas, on the same day of his appointment as DILG head, declared that Puno would be transferred and removed from his post as undersecretary for peace and order.

Chong said he had requested a review of how the bidding was conducted "in the interest of transparency and good governance."

"We refer to the notice anomalous administration to the awarding by the PNP of 39,394 units 9mm pistols, with an approved budget of P1.119 billion. Anomaly is detailed in the attached brief," he told Roxas.

Conduct probe

"For the sake of the PNP and the country, we request that you have this matter thoroughly investigated. We likewise request fully request as prudence and caution dictate, the award or the implementation of the contract be made to wait the result of the investigation," Chong said.

Documents obtained by the Inquirer showed that an unnamed foreign representative in the contract.

But only four managed to join the bidding on June 28. The two other groups were not allowed to participate for failure to submit sample firearms to the PNP Tests and awards committee (TAC).

The bidding, conducted in the main conference room of PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, was supervised by Sarmiento.

The four bidders were:

- Joint venture of R. Espreille and Israel Weapons Industry (IWI) 9 million for its Arad 9-11 PA pistols.
- Joint venture of Trust Trade and Glock Asia Pacific Ltd. (PWF million for its Glock 17 Gen 4 pistols).
- Joint venture of Giantwestmarc Equipage and Security Technologies Inc., Rockwood Trading and Cordia Zbrojovka S.C. (P1,066 billion for its CZ 75 P-07 pistols).
- Armscor (P1..97 billion for its Taurus pistols).

Endurance, durability

Based on the bids data sheet, apart from submitting the lowest offer, the winning bidder should have the sample guns tested for endurance and durability.

The samples should pass the 20,000-round endurance test, and should not jam or wear out. These should also pass technical inspection for accuracy and easy maintenance.

In case a pistol failed the endurance test, the samples of the second lowest bidder would be tested under the same conditions. During the test, 5,000 rounds would be fired per day by several policemen.

English translation

But a memo before the actual endurance test, the BAC disqualified R. Espreille and Israel Weapons Industry for their failure to comply with documentary requirements.

It was shown to have failed to provide an English translation of its foreign documents, which should be duly authenticated by the Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The documents submitted by Armscor showed that before the public bidding, a pistol evaluation was conducted on June 7. In which the seven participants were required to purchase the bids data sheet for P275,000. However, no official receipts were given to the five bidders.

Trust Trade and Glock Asia Pacific also illegally failed to submit a copy of a supply contract existing to any joint venture agreement.

The Inquirer source claimed that during the testing of the firearms provided by Glock on July 18, the following observations were made:

- The representatives of Trust Trade were allowed entry into the restricted test area and were permitted to briefly handle and test fire the guns.
- The firing test was interrupted every 150 rounds, a drastic departure from the previous practice of test firing a gun for 500 rounds before taking a pause to clean the gun.
- The representative of Trust Trade interrupted the test firing to slow down the frequency of firing.

In the State of the Nation Address on July 22, President mentioned that a winning bidder had emerged even before all the tests could be completed.

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12-YEAR-OLD RACKS UP SCORE OF 100%

Pinoy tops int'l math tilt

By Jerry E. Esplanada

BY GARNERING a perfect score, Darrell Ildefonso Wu, a high school freshman from MGC New Life Christian Academy in Taguig City, has aced the 2012 Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC).

This was announced yesterday by the University of Canberra-based Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) which has been conducting the annual international contest since 1976.

The 12-year-old Wu, a mainstay of the Philippine math team, was one of only two students worldwide who scored 150 points in this year's AMC, the AMT said in an e-mail to its local partner, the nongovernment Mathematics Trainers' Guild-Philippines (MTG).

The other perfect scorer, Bernard Yee Zhi Yi, is from Singapore.

Last year, Wu was one of 161 Filipino students who were ranked among the "top 2 percent" from more than 388,000 students from 40 countries who took part in the correspondence-type contest.

More than 400,000 students worldwide—including 5,637 from the Philippines—competed in the AMC this year. The MTG administered the Philippine contest on Aug. 3.

Fifteen other Filipino students scored "99-plus" in this year's AMC. They are Andrew Brandon Ong from Chiang Kai Shek College; John Thomas Chiniok and Matthew Eric Tan, both from St. Stephen's High School; Justin Yinsomsin from Ateneo Christian Academy; Bryce Ainsley Escobero, Denny Hendrick Cheng and Shaquille Wyeo Que, all from Grace Christian High School; Kyle Jacob Ong, Jeremy Lee Ong and Jeremiah Ong, all from Xavier School;

BI chief accused of favoring alien

By Christine O. Avendaño

A FEMALE performer has filed a complaint at the Department of Justice (DOJ) over what she claims was the grave abuse of discretion committed by Immigration Chief Ricardo David because he allowed the issuance of a multiple-entry and exit permit to a Japanese who had been earlier ordered deported by the immigration bureau for throwing a bottle at her in 2009.

In a letter to the DOJ dated June 26, Sycuchyn Siris said she obtained a copy of David's Dec. 11, 2011 order granting Masuzaki Ema only last June 25.

According to her, there is a standing deportation order against the Japanese which was issued by the Bureau of Immigration's Board of Commissioners on March 10, 2011.

She contended that the multiple entry and exit permit issued by David to Ema was manifestly to an act of "grave abuse" because it reversed the deportation order against the Japanese.

She also claimed that David and the board of commissioners denied for lack of merit on April 27 her post an omnibus motion filed by Ema as they upheld the deportation order issued against him.

"The lawful orders of the bureau must be obeyed by its officials," she said.

In 2010, Siris filed a case against the Japanese in the immigration bureau after he maltreated her while she was performing on stage at the Hyphen de Makati show club in Makati City on Aug. 9, 2009.

According to her, Ema threw vessels and food at her Hollywood-style bathtub which left her injured. As result, she had to seek medical attention and was unable to work for almost a month.

The immigration bureau initially dismissed the petition she had filed against the Japanese on the ground that the physical injuries case she slapped against him was still pending in the prosecutor's office. It later reopened her case after she showed that the case had been elevated to a metropolitan trial court in Makati City.

In his Dec. 11, 2011, order, David allowed the issuance of a multiple exit permit for Ema "in the interest of justice and fair play" because the latter had to attend to his ailing mother in Japan. He also explained that the issuance of a multiple entry permit was to let Ema attend to the case he was facing in Manila.

However, he cautioned that Ema's name would remain in the Immigration Blacklist "until the contact lifted by the bureau."

FAMILY DAY
It's not Burnham Park in Baguio City but it will do. A couple and their children go for a boat ride in the lagoon at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

Lovesick janitor shoots self

By Erika Sauler

A CHECKER of a church in Sta. Cruz, Manila, who was believed to be suffering from a broken heart killed himself shortly before midnight on Saturday.

Leo Santillan, 27, a step-in janitor of The Church in Manila on Goggin Street, shot himself in the chest with a caliber .38 revolver, according to his cousin who discovered his body, according to a police report.

The police later found text messages in the victim's cell phone sent to a certain Ivy. The messages read: "I can't make my promise" and "I'm sorry I can't bear it anymore."

Antonio Gondalion, the victim's cousin, said that Leo left the church on Saturday night, came back drunk after a few hours and then went to their room. A few minutes later, he said he heard a gunshot.

Bonifacio Global City unveils bus tours

By Jayrose T. Gomil

MORE drivers are saved to save most of the country to start a "city with soul." All one has to do is to "hop on, hop off" a bus right into the busy metropolis.

The Bonifacio Global City (BGC) in Taguig has launched its "Hop On, Hop Off" bus tour on weekends. For only P25 a day from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., tourists can conveniently explore the best attractions the 240-hectare district has to offer.

There are five stops on the tour route to allow tourists to get off the bus and explore nearby areas on foot. For as long as they have their ticket, they can get back on the bus anytime within the day to continue the rest of the district. A bus makes the round of the stops every 30 minutes.

Six-meter double-decker, popular tourist guide and heritage advocate Carlos Celdran described BGC as "a city with soul," explain the bus tour meant to stir passion in their passions "history, culture, arts and sports."

"It has interesting architecture, public art, proper and thought-out planning. It's a total work of art," Celdran noted of BGC.

The approximately nine-kilometer route starts at the "open-air mall" Bonifacio High Street where your tickets, also valid for the entire tour, are sold at the counter at B-7. Next stop is the world-class museum The Mind Museum with over 250 hands-on exhibits in five theme galleries.

The bus, playing a pre-recorded introduction by Celdran, would then move along to the BGC Offsite Gallery, an open-air interactive art gallery which features the works of local artists. There is a snack exhibit every six months.

Currently on display is Pist Bulilan's "ImagiNation," the artist's interpretation of Noah's Ark using animal-shaped sculptures and mosaic benches.

Shoppers are in for a treat at the next stop, Serendra, which the land tour will expand to spend a day as it will bring them to the football field Taf BGC.

Next three stops, which tourists can choose to explore on foot, are other attractions. Shopaholics and foodies can head for the 8th Central, The Fort Entertainment Center or Market! Market!

There are also luxury, green parks such as Kandahaan, Team (8th and Track 30th). Terra (8th between the Lansing Priory playground which services tradition al children's games such as "holen" (marbles), "habulong Saklot" (hopping) and "kalahan" (egg). It even has a built-in "pilas" (hopscotch) diagram. Track 30th, on the other hand, encourages wellness and fitness. It has a jogging track, a yoga lawn and a meditation garden.

The route also highlights interactive installations and sculptures permanently scattered across the district such as Swabe Cuenca's "Pananahanan," Ben Oyer Villanueva's "Ang Pagsasalu," Jaco Sto. Isabel Cordero's "Balangkal," Lee Cabrera's "Transhumanism," Anni Aquil de Leon Imao's "Kaanyayang Kawan One" and Jaymaro Pio Lorenzana's "The Trees."

BGC commercial operations head Manny Hao said that a unique feature in BGC are the refreshing open spaces. "We have one of the biggest in the metro with the open space required by law. We chose not to build on them," he said. All the cables, the water, detention tank, and even the liquefied petroleum gas tanks, are all hidden underground.

Celdran, meanwhile, revealed that it costs P100,000 to rid a tree in BGC while a portion of investments from development are ensured in the BGC public art program.

"They are the only guys who are trying to do things right," he said.

"There's more to BGC than making money. Making money is an easy thing to do. Why not make money and contribute something to humanity? Why can't we do both sometimes? They show you the genuine achievements of humanity," Hao said.

Pinoy tops int'l math tilt

From page A20

ines College; Elan Chua from MGC Twin Life Christian Academy; Chua Stephan Ong from Ateneo de Manila University; Patrick Isidro Peñaranda from Crossroads Montessori Learning Center; and Christian Philip Gelera from DP Integrated School.

Dr. Bryn Taylor, AMT director, will arrive in Manila on Dec. 17 to award the medals to the Filipino members soon.

DID YOU KNOW

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines on Roxas Boulevard in Manila was inaugurated in September 1969. Created through Executive Order No. 30 with the purpose of promoting and preserving Filipino arts and culture, it is administered by the Office of the President and is under the supervision of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

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GMA

RESIDENTS living beside the Estero de San Lazaro in Sta. Cruz, Manila, pitch in to clean up the waterway of garbage swept into the area by last month's floods.

Residents clear trash-filled estero

By Erika Sauler

MEN shovels and bin guards attached to bamboo poles, informal settlers living beside an estero in Sta. Cruz, Manila, worked together yesterday to scoop up the trash that had flooded the waterway due to last month's flash typhoon-like torrential monsoon rains.

"We... [are] trying to encourage community participation and show them the economic benefits of keeping the waterways clean by getting rid of garbage and flooding problems," said Jonathan Mirandi, spokesperson of Kalikasan people-Lea Ilog organized the cleanup of Estero de San Lazaro in coordination with Councilor Ronnie Morales.

Ellen Yang, 39, a resident of Barangay 289 Zone 29, said last month's heavy floods swept the garbage from other barangays into their area.

She added that residents along the waterway had long stopped throwing their trash into the estero. However, the piles they had set up under the bridge to block the garbage from other barangays proved to be no match for the higher than usual floodwaters.

The city department of public safety would pick up the garbage collected yesterday for proper disposal, Morales said.

At the same time, he called on the national government to implement flood control programs and dredge the waterways leading to Manila Bay.

Financial aid pushed for PMA cadet

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A QUEZON City councilor has recommended that a graduating cadet of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) who was shot last month after he tried to foil a robbery hold a passing-out parade for extended financial assistance.

On top of this, Cadet Alfonso Arriba should be commended for his heroic act, according to Councilor Marvin Rillo.

Rillo remains unaware as the intensive care unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Medical Center after he was shot on Aug. 25 when he attempted to grab the gun of a robber who had declared a hold inside a passenger jeepney at the corner of Regalado and Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City. He shooter fled afterward and has yet to be identified.

The cadet was in Manila at that time because he had been assigned to serve as a proctor in the PMA entrance examinations the following day.

Rillo proposed that P50,000 in financial aid be extended to Arriba from the Office of the City Mayor's budget this year or from any available funds in the city treasury.

WORLDBRIEFS

Battle rages in Aleppo as Russia urges Syria unity

ALEPPO—Fighting for control of a key army base in Aleppo raged on Saturday, as Russia's foreign minister delivered a blunt assessment of the bloodstained path for a government of unity in Syria. As Lakhdar Brahimi prepared for his first visit to Damascus as international envoy on Syria, 11 foreign ministers meeting in Cyprus agreed the pressure, saying they agreed on the need to beef up sanctions against the Syrian regime. On the ground, the army claimed a victory against rebels in the northern city of Aleppo, quoting them from the Hanano army base backed by armor and helicopters in a 24-hour battle. Military sources and witnesses said: "There are scores of victims on both sides," one witness told AFP. AFP

Wave of blasts kill 34 in Iraq; French consulate hit

BAGHDAD—At least 34 people were killed in a series of attacks and blasts across Iraq on Sunday, including a car bomb outside a French consular building, as the government grapples with a persistent insurgency. Sunni insurgents and al-Qaeda have launched a series of major attacks this year in an attempt to stoke the kind of political and sectarian tensions that drove the country to near civil war in 2006-2007. The most serious of the 14 attacks happened overnight in Dujail, 60 km north of Baghdad, when gunmen and a suicide bomber driving a car attacked a military base, killing 11 soldiers and injuring seven, police sources said. Reuters

Thousands protest in Japan against Osprey aircraft

TOKYO—Tens of thousands of people rallied Sunday against US plans to deploy Osprey hybrid aircraft on a southern Japanese island amid renewed safety concerns. "No problems"—as scary as 100,000, according to organizers—gathered at a seaside park on Okinawa to demand that the plan to deploy 12 MV-22 Osprey aircraft on the island be scrapped, saying they are unsafe. The US plans to deploy the Osprey, which takes off like a helicopter and flies like an airplane, to replace older CH-46 helicopters that are already there. Safety concerns boiled over after Osprey crashes in Morocco and Florida earlier this year. An incident in North Carolina last week that officials called a "precautionary landing" further aggravated the sentiment. AP

India, Pakistan sign visa deal, easing travel

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan and India signed a new visa agreement Saturday easing restrictions for travelers in what was seen as a step forward warming relations between the rival South Asian countries after years of heightened mistrust and hostility. The agreement was signed by SM. Krishna, the Indian minister for external affairs, and Rehman Malik, the Pakistani interior minister, in Islamabad. The visa requirements have been strict in the past because of suspicions of covert activity. Among other changes, the agreement will exempt travelers older than 65, children younger than 12 and businessmen from reporting to the police during their travels. AP/TDT

US to grant former Mexican president immunity

MEXICO CITY—A former Mexican president who is now a scholar at Yale University should be immune from a civil lawsuit brought against him in the United States in connection with a 1997 massacre during his term, the State Department said Friday. Lawyers for victims of the massacre, who brought the suit last September against the former president, Ernesto Zedillo, said Saturday that it's a federal judge concurs, as they generally do, the decision "will prevent us from proceeding with the case against him and preventing proof of his responsibility." The State Department said Zedillo should have immunity because the suit, filed in federal court in Connecticut, concerned actions taken in his official capacity, which generally allow heads of state freedom from the reach of US courts. AP/DJS

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(Construction of PMO Projects in the 2nd District of Camarines Sur)

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit No. 3 is inviting interested PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTION ... [illegible] ... Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

Smart's mHealth program hailed as one of country's best

Smart is the above during the recently concluded Ginebra Libha Kalinangan Awards (GLKA) at Eastwood Cinema One. (left to right) Jun Alcantara of Pfizer, Smart partner manager for Health Enterprise Solutions Jay Paciencia, Smart Senior Product Manager for Product, Research and Innovation Strategic Management (PRISM) Marvin G. Hernandez, Smart Foundation Inc. President Ms. Jessel Tan, PRISM President, and Ms. Ma. Rosabella Zenaida Smart Business Process Supervisor for PRISM.

THE FLAGSHIP mHealth program of Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart), which supports improvement in health care services delivery in the country-side, was given recognition at the recently concluded Ginebra Libha Kalinangan Awards. Smart was the only telco awarded at the ceremony.

For its "path-breaking ICT initiative to coordinate a comprehensive but feasible, cost-effective and sustainable system of patient recording, monitoring, reporting and referral," SEDNO, or Second Health Information Network and Exchange was recognized as one of the country's top ten health innovations for 2012.

The Galing Libha Kalinangan Awards is a culmination of a continuing search for the best health systems innovations in the Philippines. Now on its second year, the awards program is part of Health Market Innovations in the Philippines (HMIP) project, a collaboration between the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and Center for Health Market Innovations (CHMI), which aims to evaluate and recognize successful and sustainable health market innovations in the country.

"The Galing Libha Kalinangan Awards are conferred to public and private organizations that best exemplify the high level of health innovation in the marketplace. We are grateful for the contributions of this year's top programs in achieving improved healthcare access, regional integration and inclusive growth," said Dr. Jessel T. Tan, President of PIDS.

"This award inspires us to ramp up our efforts in enhancing our suite of web and mobile technologies, and in expanding our collaborations with partners and stakeholders, to contribute to the growth and development of the Philippine healthcare system. We commend our commitment to providing technologies that can make healthcare services delivery accessible, affordable and relevant to our countrymen," said Napoleon L. Nazareno, President and CEO of PLDT and Smart.

SEDNO is a hosted EMR system for health information and referral systems accessible by a password-capable phone or a computer with internet connectivity. It enables doctors, nurses, and midwives to record patient encounters, easily find and retrieve patient records, record patients and healthcare providers, facilitate referrals among facilities, and secure client-to-government required reports.

The service being a product of a public-private collaboration of Smart, the Department of Health (DOH), local government units (LGUs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) is designed and implemented considering the needs of different players in the healthcare ecosystem. It is now being used in public primary, secondary, and tertiary care facilities in Central Philippines and National Capital Region (NCR) health facilities involved.

Last year, Smart-supported programs were also recognized by the HMIP. Among those recognized in 2011 health innovations during the Galing Libha Kalinangan Awards were Wireless Access for Health, which received an Innovation award, as well as Computer Networking via Cellphone Networking (ASCENT) and Philhealth Assistance by Air, which received Merit awards. They were among the top 20 awardees for 2012 nationwide from more a pool of 117 health market innovations.

Smart regularly holds SEDNO training for health workers.

Hong Kong backs down on China education plan

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's government withdrew plans for a compulsory Chinese school curriculum on Saturday after tens of thousands took to the streets in protest at what they said was a move to "brainwash" students.

The decision by the island's pro-China Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying to make the curriculum voluntary for schools came a day before elections for just over half the seats of Hong Kong's 70-seat legislature.

"We don't want the recent controversy to affect the operations of schools, nor do we want to see the burrowing of the education environment to be affected," said Leung, saying the move was a "major policy amendment."

"They have made a substantive concession," said Joseph Wong, a former senior government official and political scientist.

"One may say it's too late, but better late than never. I think it will defuse the issue, maybe not entirely, but at least it will remove a lot of the tensions. This is a great day for Hong Kong's civil society."

For the past week, thousands of protesters have ringed Hong Kong's government headquarters, camped out in tents, dressed in black and shouting for the withdrawal of the curriculum they said was Communist Party propaganda aimed at indoctrinating new generations of primary and secondary school students.

The education issue is one of several key issues for voters, along with housing and the increasing number of visitors from the mainland coming into the city.

Leung was sworn in in July after being elected by a committee filled with business professionals, lawyers and Beijing loyalists. Hong Kong's seven-million people have no say in who becomes their chief executive.

A strong showing by the opposition pro-democracy camp would make it more difficult for the chief executive to pass policies in a hostile legislature.

The polls may be a chance for voters to express anti-China sentiment, with many protesters still camped outside the government headquarters after the apparent backdown, still crowded with the police charges.

"This is a turning point to put the bill in the people's court. Even though they say schools are free to choose... in the coming years I expect the government and Beijing to use hidden means to try to promote more and more schools to take up the scheme," said young activist Mak Chi-hang.

"What Hong Kong needs is real universal suffrage."

Hong Kong is a freewheeling capitalist hub which enjoys a high degree of autonomy, but Beijing has insisted public pressure for full democracy and has maintained a high degree of influence in political, media and academic spheres.

The past week's protests have included Tiananmen vellum and the handing of a replica of the Goddess of Democracy statue, which was erected in Beijing's Tiananmen Square during the 1989 demonstrations and crackdown.

The latest outbreak of discontent represents yet another headache for Beijing, after Chinese President Hu Jintao appealed in July for Hong Kong to maintain unity, with Beijing's new leaders grappling with an unforeseen leadership scandal.—Reuters

Clinton tells Russia that US trade sanctions will soon end

VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton pledged Saturday that the United States would soon lift cold-war-era trade sanctions on Russia, but she did not address human rights legislation in the US Congress that has infuriated the Kremlin and become an unexpected issue in the US presidential race.

Attending the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting hosted by Russia in place of the campaigning President Barack Obama, Clinton welcomed Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) last month. She added that the United States must now normalize trade relations so that US businesses can reap the benefits of Russia's membership, including lower tariffs for US products.

Although the sanctions included in the 1974 law known as Jackson-Vanik are waived each year and have no practical effect, they violate WTO rules, which could allow Russia to retaliate against US businesses.

The effort to grant Russia normal trade status, however, has become entangled in legislation that would punish Russian officials accused of abusing human rights, denying them visas and freezing their assets. That has raised doubts that any agreement on lifting the Jackson-Vanik provisions can be reached before the November election.

The human rights bill, which has bipartisan support in both houses of Congress, is named after Sergei Magnitsky, a lawyer who died in prison in 2009 after being prosecuted on charges that his supporters argued were manufactured to cover up official corruption.

Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential challenger, injected the issue into the campaign last week by issuing a statement saying that, as president, he would "work to swiftly implement" the Magnitsky bill more enamor. The Obama administration, by contrast, has opposed the bill as too expansive and lobbied against it, saying it will be made it so, while opposing support for addressing rights abuses in Russia in some way.

The division over Russia so an issue in the US campaign came mainly into focus after Clinton wrapped up a 10-day, six-nation trip to Asia.

The Romney campaign, in a statement, criticized "the Obama administration's attempts to scuttle the Magnitsky bill and its overall reluctance to shine a light on human rights abuses in Russia and the Putin government's backsliding on democratic principles."

President Vladimir V. Putin, host of the conference, in an interview last week, praised Obama as "a very honest man" and rebuked Romney for calling Russia "without question the No. 1 geopolitical foe" of the US. REUTERS

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

INVITATION TO BID

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Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

- Lady Troopers thwart Lady Eagles' semis bid /A31

Bulldogs wrest 4th spot

Down Green Archers by 10; Eagles advance to Final 4

(PHOTO) Cyp. of Adamson roots the defense of Ateneo's Christopher Banaday and Luis Banaga (right) in yesterday's game.

By Jaemie W. Paye

ATENEO finally claimed the first Final Four berth over no National University, slaying Bobby Ray Parks, downed La Salle, 72-61, yesterday to wrest solo fourth in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at Mall of Asia Arena.

The Blue Eagles made sure there would be no repeat of their midgame blunder this time as they rolled back the talented Filipinos, 79-72, with Nico Salva extending half of his 29 points in the last eight minutes of the fourth quarter where Ateneo shot a sagging 82 percent from the field.

"I'm just happy we didn't make the same mistakes we did in the last game," Ateneo coach Norman Black said after his first-time champions rebounded from a shock loss to site-run University of the East, 77-75, last Thursday and boost their backing record to 10-2.

Parks scattered 22 points, 17 of them in the third period, where the Bulldogs led by as many as 16 points, 53-37, en route to their seventh win in 11 games. It was the sixth 30-point outing in two seasons for the son of the three top PBA leagues Bobby Parks.

NU coach Eric Altamirano said his Bulldogs were motivated by the UAAP board's decision to nullify their controversial loss to the Eastern University, 75-57, and settle a replay on Sept. 21.

"We said that good favor to inspire us for this game," said Altamirano. "We're excited we were given a second lease of life."

Gelo Alolino added 11 points for the Bulldogs, who pushed the Archers down to fifth at 7-5.

Salva fired a six-point shutter to give the Eagles a 72-71 lead before Kiefer Ravena drilled free of the team's last seven points for the final tally.

"Every loss is a wake-up callout it reminds us that we're not there yet," said Salva, who tied his season high by posting an impressive 11-of-14 shooting clip.

Greg Slaughter had 16 points and 12 boards, while Ateneo shot 53 for the Eagles.

In juniors play, FEU's Arde Pingoy answered the cause University of the East side as the Baby Tamaraws forged a toppled 93-30 victory.

Waging the reigning juniors MVP explosive for 43 points, including a remarkable 12-of-20 shooting from three-point range to lead the unbeaten Baby Tams to their tenth straight win.

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Immonen, pal seal title duel with Poles

By Manny R. Castillo

OTAGANI, marking the veteran Mika Immonen and lady Wei Makkonen, sealed a title clash with Poland and in little known seer yesterday for the World Cup of Pool championship at Robinson's Place in Manila.

Immonen-Makkonen, the pair that took out Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante of Philippines 8 Saturday night, won the final four ticket in an unrallied match against the United States' Rodney Morris and Shane Van Boening and earned the chance to play for the $60,000 top prize.

While they were decisive against the charismatic Filipino pair two nights ago, this time the Finns were tentative early against the Americans, trailing, 2-5, before winning seven of the last nine racks to reach the finals for just the second time.

Finland first made the final in 2007 in Scotsmen, and a second in heartbreak for Immonen and teammate Marcus Jons as they lasted, 12-13, to China.

Karol Skowronski and Wojciech Szewczyk, meanwhile, clipped Chinese-Taipeh's Hsi-Chi Tan and Hsin-Ying chen, 11-4.

"This is impossible," Skowronski said, moments after their domination of the Taiwanese. "One week ago, we weren't even thinking of the final (match). The semifinal (show) is historical (for us). Maybe no one even sees this tournament."

The final match is a best-in-13 affair with the team tied at ten via racks at press time.

"We are not the strongest team. Dank Immen," the 18-year-old Szewczyk said. "We are not even top two in Poland, but what he (Schon) is amazing."

PH chessers eye 10th vs Romanians

Round 10 Leaders
OPEN: 7½ points—Ding, Aronian, Svidler, Topalov, Ni Hua, Gelfand, Grischuk, Georgiev, Ponkratt, Jones, Adams, Radjabov, Dominguez, Eljanov, Wojtaszek, Navara, Wang Hao, Nakamura, Caruana, Ivanchuk, Wang Yue, Bacrot, Kamsky, Onischuk, Shirov, Vallejo Pons, Ivanisevic, Bologan, Movsesian, Sutovsky, Volokitin, Fressinet, Sasikiran, Karjakin, Mamedyarov, Inarkiev, Vitiugov, Andreikin, Jakovenko, Dreev, Rodshtein, Tomashevsky, Malakhov, Bu Xiangzhi, Iv

ACTION goes hot-tidy awkward for both teams as Joint Carpio of Mapa fumbles a strap shot off PEU's Ivy Remolta, (left) and Wincenta Basilio.

Lady Troopers thwart Lady Eagles' semis bid

By Jasmine W. Paya

PHILIPPINE Army rose from a set down for a 23-25, 25-15, 25-23, 26-24 triumph against an Ateneo squad that entered its other close to coal the last Final four berth in the Shakey's V-League Open tournament yesterday at Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Michelle Carolino hit 24 points, including 10 kills and four service aces, to help the Lady Troopers boost their bid for the No. 3 spot with a 5-7 card.

An Ateneo victory could have completed the Final Four race after Far Eastern University ousted Philippine Navy, 25-17, 19-25, 25-17, 25-23, to pick up its first victory in nine games.

Ateneo, though, hopes to nail the semifinal berth on its third try tomorrow when it takes on Cagayan Valley.

The Lady Eagles were here a 5-4 card with Navy at 2-7. Al-

ready in the race ceased are Santiago-San Sebastian (7-1), Army (7-2) and Cagayan Valley (6-2).

Angeline Tabuquero fired the last three points before finishing with 20 markers, while Thai Sangsomeng Pavharoot, Wincenta Basilio, Mary Rilma and Ivy Remolta also came through with key plays for the Lady Tumaruans.

Jacqueline Alawa and Rachel Ann Daquis teamed up for 27 points for the defending champion Army which stayed close behind the pacesetting Lady Stags.

Meanwhile, the PEU-Army match will be shown on AKTV starting at 8 o'clock while the Army-Ateneo duel will be aired tomorrow on 7 p.m., according to the organizing Sports Vision.

Stags, Knights seek revenge vs spoilers

By Cedell P. Tupas

SAN Sebastian seeks payback against Mapua today even as Final Four hopeful Letran battles a hotter Benilde tomorrow on the hi-hat in the 88th NCAA basketball tournament at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Hoping to stay on the hook of the San Beda Red Lions, the Stags shoot for only No. 11 at 9 p.m. against one of the two teams than dash them a loss in the first round.

"Every game is important and we have to be ready for this final stretch of the second round," said San Sebastian coach Allan Trinidad. "We will have very tough games ahead."

Ranking on a strong note, the Cardinals pounced on the lethargic Stags in their first meeting last Aug. 6, coasting away with a 63-59 victory.

But the game takes extra significance for Mapua, which is trying to stay in the Final Four race that partly opened up following losses by Perpetual Help and San Sebastian Saturday.

Letran and St. Benilde clash in the second game at 4 p.m. with the Knights hoping to close down the Blazers and the Bombers.

The clash will feature two of the finest scorers in the league in Kevin Alas and Carlo Lastimosa.

The Blazers entered the Knights, 77-66, in the first round with guard Joel Tolentino playing his finest game of the season so far with 21 points.

Since Benilde holds every-thing-but-the-kitchen-sink approach of reaching the postseason.

Alas they would have no deal with the threat posed by Alas, who is back on terrain his 30-point effort in the 76-66 rout of Lyceum last Thursday.

San Sebastian has been heavily relying on the tremendous trio of Calvin Abueva, Ian Sangalang and Ronald Pascual this season. But reserves Joseph Gabayni and Michael Miranda have also stepped up in the last two games.

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Where amazing happens for Spoelstra, et al.

(to2nd4thNYC) California—The National Basketball Association, one is in marketing matters is where amazing happens—for head coaches.

Erik Spoelstra lured by the world champion Miami Heat in 2008, is the first Filipino and Asian-American head coach in the NBA. He is named the force by piloting the Heat to their second straight title last season.

Until his replacement by Steve Kerr, Golden Cavalier of the Portland Trail Blazers was the first Hispanic-American ever to become team skipper in the premier basketball league on the planet.

Bearing any perceived changes before its 67th season available on Oct. 27, half of the 30 main bench nemeses in the 30-team league are executives, 14 of them African-Americans.

They include the cross-trading birth future of the Sacramento Kings' owner acquired their revitalized the team's FIL-Asian fans on the geometric Sacramento-Miami axis, and remembered by the hardcore hard court crowd back home.

Also his NBA career hit the skids, Stone packed his bags for Manila to chair a San Miguel Beer gamey in the 1989 PBA Invitational Conference.

Stone is all too familiar with the side of his pants in the 60s, where the paycheck a great and the chemical to produce a genuine, if iconic, a baked goat, you have to believe as you've see the show.

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Della

Joe Stone of the former Celtics told the Associated Press recently that he was surprised by the number of black and minority coaches. Before Jerry Sloan, "has not by-the-trend."

"I don't think it's a big deal anymore, especially in the league and I think we probably are the more in all leagues in that way," said Stone, retired coach since 2004.

Besides Stone and Sloan, the NBA's other black head coaches are Mike Brown (Los Angeles Lakers), Avery Johnson (New Jersey), Tyrone Corbin (Utah Jazz), George Carter (Phoenix), Paul Silas (Charlotte), Lionel Hollins (Memphis), Larry Drew (Atlanta), Keith Smart (Phoenix), Maney Williams (New Orleans), Mark Jackson (Golden State), Byron Scott (Cleveland Cavaliers) and Mark Crawford (New York Knicks).

Those guys are among the highest-paid workers in American business, if we look at the NBA like American 600 company.

Hollins said the AP that NBA wants "an opening to understand—[an Ivanovich counter-

cus organizer and prepare and monitor and much just as well as anybody else. I think our whole society is learning this."

League president David Stern insists the issue isn't race. He explains that the NBA believes in meritocratic immigrant pan and foreigners to him.

Stern said the league gets seven and a grade of A plus from a watchdog group for hiring the most minorities as coaches and front office personnel five years of a stint this formula.

Accounting to Stern the only thing that has an is "picking the best candidates" of any colo.

* * *

An ambitious P487 billion infrastructure project unveiled by the Aquino administration includes P10-3 billion for the construction of roads and bridges across the country in the next four years.

Image of the Batman-inspired road designation played a game of one-upmanship yesterday in the superhuman and associated the bandit-designed road dash per project.

One rival bridge would link barangays Bacolod and Talacogon Mindanao in any adopted Caraline Dry Dance line. Such a span would speed up travel for travelers and hotels from the city center to the Garden coast—without going through the so-called Dakota Highway—a long route to need of water repair roads.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT NO. 4-A
QMAC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Center for Health Development No. 4-A, QMAC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City, will conduct Public Bidding as per the following schedule:

I. PRE-BID CONFERENCE
A. PURCHASE OF HOSPITAL, OFFICE & TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT — Sept. 18, 2012 | 10:00 AM
B. PRINTING OF PADS FORMS & PURCHASE OF CARWASH SOAP — Sept. 18, 2012 | 2:00 PM
II. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS

The requirement for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted to CHD-4-A, BAC Secretariat by the duly authorized representative at the following schedules:

A. PURCHASE OF HOSPITAL, OFFICE & TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT — Oct. 1, 2012 | 10:00 AM
(Approved Budget for the Contract- P7.0M)
(Tel/Fax: (632) 06-4007)
B. PRINTING OF PADS FORMS & PURCHASE OF CARWASH SOAP — Oct. 1, 2012 | 2:00 PM
(Approved Budget for the Contract- P1.0M)
(Tel/Fax: (632) 06-4008)

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waive any formality in the bids therein and accept/cancel/postponed bidding and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) EDNARDA I. FLORES, MD, MPH, CESO
BAC Chairperson

(Tel. Fax: 6-264)

Javier, Torres strike in Unilab duathlon

NATIONAL duathlon maestros Rolando Javier survived the challenge of triathlon counterpart John Chiongco to win the men's open title in the Unilab Active Health Duathlon yesterday in Clark Field, Pampanga.

After racing neck and neck with Chiongco in the first run leg and bike leg, Javier took the lead for good covering the second transition and went on to finish the 10-km run-10-km bike-5-km run event with a time of two hours, 17 minutes and nine seconds.

Chiongco settled for second spot in 2:17:33 with Baldomero Herrera finishing third in 2:18:36.

The Javier-Torres stint the women's race from start to finish with a clocking of 2:34:01 in the event organized by BikeKing and supported by Manila South Volkswagen Cars and Holiday Inn Clark.

In the sprint clearance, national running pool member Irene Fernandez overhauled the early lead of Mark Alzate to win the men's title in 57:42. Mark Gregory Pile came in next in 1:00:09 with Alexis Hocking third in 1:02:02.

Ilan Mangahas, who topped the duathlon race in 1:05:19 followed by Mayi Madigana (1:13:07) and Magali Bolano (1:13:01).

Unilab Active Health brand manager Lester Castillo, race promotions director Alexander Perillo and BikeKing CEO and race organizer Raul Cuevas graced the event.

Pasay derby lures top breeders, fires off today

A FOUR-CORNERED fight among perennial breeders from Batangas, Laguna, Pasay and Metro Manila opens the Annual 4-Stag Derby today at Pasay City Cockpit.

Organized by Pasay City Mayor Antonio Calixto and Joseph Mangahas of Rizal and hosted by the event supported by Sagupan Complainer Rizal.

Among the favorites are the entries of Patrick Antonio, Jaman Santos, Ronnie Boy Ebarle and Dino Cornejo, Edwin Aquino, Danny Te, Benny Antipolo, Lito Pangan, Philip Dimayuga, Jayong Lorenzo and Chang dela Cruz.

RGBA Stag Circuit gets going in Pasig Thursday

THE RIZAL Gamefowl Breeders Association (RGBA) unveils its another record-setting season with the staging of the 2012 Stag Circuit starting this Thursday at Pasig Square Garden (PSG) in Pasig City.

The First Leg T-Stag derby organized by the 400-plus-member RGBA offers a guaranteed cash prize of P1.5 million for an entry fee of P7,700.

Separate 3-stag eliminations fee off on Thursday at PSG, Sept. 17 at Angeles Cockpit, Sept. 20 at PSG and Sept. 22 at Antipolo Coliseum.

The 4-stag prelude is scheduled on Sept. 24 at Roxas Cockpit, with the 6-stag grand finale slated two days later at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Javier, Torres strike in Unilab duathlon

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Cagayan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO I) and Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO II), in compliance with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) "Guidelines for Reviewing of Power for the Generation Component of Distribution Utilities' Rates", which took effect on May 3, 2004, invited interested Suppliers — Existing or New Generation Companies — to submit an offer for the supply of interruptible and peaking electricity requirements for a minimum of Two years and a maximum of 10 years commencing on December 26, 26 to for the following ranges:

1. CAGELCO I — Nominal Capacity of: 10-15MW
2. CAGELCO II — Nominal Capacity of: 5-10MW

CAGELCO I & II shall sign a Bilateral Contract with the most complying power supplier that could meet the specified requirements.

This invitation is open to all qualified parties that are licensed to operate in the Philippine electric generation or supply sector. Interested Suppliers shall comply with the following Submission Requirements and submit Letter of Intent to CAGELCO I & II: PRIOR: 15 March 2013 AVAILABLE:

A. Company Profile
B. Business Permit
C. Articles of Incorporation
D. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
E. Audited Financial Reports/Statements for past three (3) years
F. Latest Financial Statement

An Invited Suppliers shall accept the Terms of Reference (TOR) Documents during the Preliminary Conference then.

THE PRE-BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Maganoy, Quezon, Philippines
Telefax No. : (078) 968 - 2940 +E-mail: mail@cagelco2.coop.ph

Schedule of activities are as follows:

Release of Invitation to Submit Offers	September 10 & 17, 2012
Deadline for Submission of Expression of Interest	September 25, 2012
Preliminary Conference	September 26 - October 3, 2012
Technical Evaluation	October 4 - 10, 2012
Evaluation of Offers Submitted	October 11, 2012
Award to selected/successful contract negotiations	Within 30 days

Cost of TOR Documents (non-refundable) PHP 10,000.00

CAGELCO I and CAGELCO II reserve the right to reject any or all offers without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept or consider any deficiency in the submission and accept/cancel/postponed bidding and most advantageous to the government. In no event shall CAGELCO I and CAGELCO II be liable for expenses or losses that may be incurred by the proponents in the preparation of their offers. In case there is guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORRES-LAS
Gen. Manager & CEO, MEMBAC Chairperson

(Tel. Fax: 6-2-1, 6-3)

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Maganoy District, Aparri, Cagayan
Tel. No.: (078) 968-2940 to follow 101
Telefax No.: (078) 968-2940
E-mail: mail@cagelco2.coop.ph
Website: www.cagelco2.coop.ph

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

This is pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, CAGELCO II is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the [illegible] under the said Act.

1. MATERIALS NEEDED:
   1.1. 4.16/2.4kV, 100 KVA, 3-PHASE, Pole-mounted, DYn11 and YN-Yn0, 3-Phase, 60 Hertz, Outdoor Type, Single Phase, 2-Wire, IEC Standard
2. SERVICES NEEDED:
   2.1. HEAD-END SYSTEM
   - Customized Meter Reading System that can read and edit accurately, efficiently and reliably all kinds of electronic meters
   - Integration of the Meter Reading System to the Billing System with accuracy rate from 95%-100% billing
   - Integration of the Meter Reading System to the Billing System to ensure 100% computerization
   2.2. COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (GENERAL)
   - Development of Customized Computerized Accounting System using Single Software and Free of BIR and Prevalence IDD, T1 Database Server
   - Integration of the Rest of the Computerized Accounting System to the Billing System, Payroll, Disbursement, Inventory, Fixed Assets, Etc.
   - Maintenance of the Computerized Accounting System to ensure that it is 100% reliable
   - Training of personnel to operate and maintain the Computerized Accounting System to ensure that it is 100% reliable

Prospective bidders must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accomplish Requirements for submission to the BAC Chairman:
   a. Company Profile
   b. Business Registration
   c. Business Permit
   d. Articles of Incorporation
   e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   f. List of Machinery and Equipment
   g. Financial Statement
   h. Compliance with the Issued Terms of Reference (TOR)
2. What we able to pay P15,000.00 for bid documents during pre-bidding conference.

CAGELCO I reserves the right to reject any or all offers without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept or consider any deficiency in the submission and accept/cancel/postponed bidding and most advantageous to the government. In no event shall CAGELCO I and CAGELCO II be liable for expenses or losses that may be incurred by the proponents in the preparation of their offers. In case there is guarantee that an award will be made.

Deadline for submission of requirements: September 10, 2012

Pre-bid conference: September 26, 2012

Public bidding: Oct 3, 2012

(Sgd.) ELIZABETH T. BENAMBRA
BAC Chairman

(Tel. Fax: 968-2940)

Mickelson grabs BMW share of lead with Singh

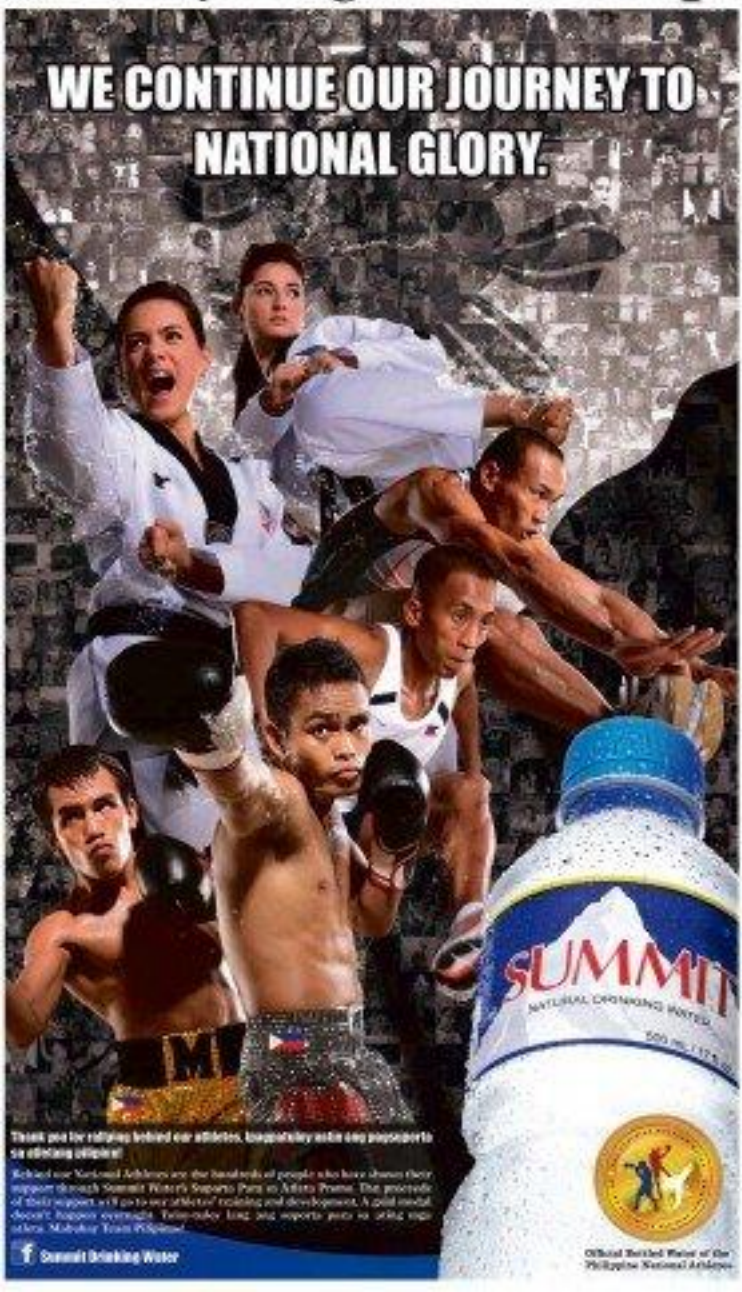
CHASKA, Indiana — Phil Mickelson made 13 birdies in his round of 8-under 62 to share the lead Saturday at the BMW Championship when Vijay Singh threw a potential final hole. Rory McIlroy, going for his second straight Harbo Cup playoff spot and his PGA Tour-leading fourth of the year, birdied his 18th to salvage a 66. He was one shot behind with Lee Westwood, a former world No. 1 who shot his fifth 66 of the week, birdies on the back nine for a 68. Tiger Woods was three shots behind after a 71. AP

Klitschko keeps WBC heavyweight belt

MOSCOW — Ukraine's Vitali Klitschko successfully defended his WBC heavyweight title here on Saturday after the referee stopped his bout with previously 6-1 Manuel Charr in the fourth round due to a cut over his right eye. The fight was stopped with 55 seconds remaining in the round. Klitschko improved his record to 45-2 while Charr, 25, who was competing before his hometing with a disputed, 12-round win over Ruslan Chagaev in 2011, dipped to 29-1-1. "I wanted to win by a knockout," Klitschko said. AP

SPORTS

Murray barges into US Open finals



NEW YORK—Dealing with 20 mph (32 kph) wind that blew a changeover chair onto the US Open court on one point and stalled his ball off during another, Andy Murray navigated his way into his fifth Grand Slam final.

Now he'll try to win his first Grand Slam title—and first for any British man in 76 years.

Adapting to the conditions far better than his opponent did, Olympic champion Murray came back to beat stalwart power Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic, 3-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3, 7-6 (5), in a rain-delayed and wind-swept semifinal on Saturday.

"It was brutal," Murray said about his 3 hour, 55-minute victory. "Hard to describe. You had to focus for every single point. ... Some of the hardest conditions I've ever played in, for sure, and I came from love-and, so that's saying something."

In the other semifinal, defending champion Novak Djokovic was trailing fourth-seeded David Ferrer, 5-2, after about a half hour of action when tournament referee Brian Earley came out on court and told the players and the chair umpire that they needed to stop because of a potentially dangerous storm.

That match, which will determine who faces Murray, was scheduled to resume Sunday morning. The men's final was shifted from its originally scheduled Sunday slot to Monday, something that has happened at every US Open since 2008.

Shower in the nighttime forecast also prevented the second semifinal, between the women's final between Serena Williams and Victoria Azarenka until Sunday, the fourth time in five years that the women's championship was pushed back to Sunday.

This event is the first major since the 2004 French Open with neither Roger Federer nor Rafael Nadal in the semifinals. Both were beaten by Berdych in the quarterfinals, while Nadal did not enter the field, sidelined by a partially torn tendon in his left knee. AP

HURRAY Murray celebrates after defeating Tomas Berdych in the US Open semifinals on Saturday. AP

Hong seeks back-to-back ICTSI victory

CHARLES Hong hopes to keep the momentum of his breakthrough win at Pueblo de Oro when he competes against the same field he bested in Cagayan de Oro last week in the P1 million ICTSI Bacolod Pulse Strike Classic, teeing off Wednesday in Lemery City.

The par-72 layout has been spruced up as championship conditions in time for its first hosting of an ICTSI Philippine Golf Tour leg, with Hong now emerging the player to watch following his double-win and with the tour's big guns still on the Asian Tour.

But Hong has opted to downplay his chances to score the first back-to-back victory in the circuit organized by Filipinos Golf Tournaments Inc.

"Right now, I don't feel pressured," said Hong. "I just need a like the one last week."

Hong came from behind to capture the ICTSI Pueblo de Oro title, beating veteran Richard Siodyong on the first playoff hole. The win pushed Hong from No. 15 to No. 9 in the Order of Merit ranking.

Other tour honors go Capin Gel, Dizon, Fuego, Galang, Tarlo-Mido, Mateo, Sison, Abe Gel, Cadion, Gonzales and Guay with Gels, Seale 21, Fitzgerald and Inquirer Sec as media partners.

HONG No pressure

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BUSINESS

BRAIN

Ayala, Aboitiz team up for airport project

Joint venture to bid for P10-B Mactan redevelopment

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE AYALA and Aboitiz groups—two of the country's biggest and oldest conglomerates both led by Hispanic families—have teamed up to bid for a P10-billion project to redevelop the Mactan International Airport in Cebu.

Ayala Corp. and Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. signed a memorandum of agreement on Friday to create a 50:50 joint venture that would serve as their vehicle to build a new terminal for the country's second-largest international gateway under the public-private partnership (PPP) framework.

Based on a PPP Center briefing paper, Mactan project will involve the construction of a world-class passenger terminal building with a capacity of eight million passengers a year as well as the operation and maintenance of the old and new facilities.

Ayala president and chief operating officer Fernando Zobel de Ayala said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Friday that the Ayala group was excited about this partnership. "We cannot think of a better partner for this project than the Aboitiz group. Industrial has not only built a long history and heritage in Cebu but also has a successful track record in undertaking significant size projects in multiple industries," Zobel said.

"Both groups strongly believe in the potential of the Mactan Airport to be a compelling gateway to the country for international passengers and to the Visayas for the growing domestic travelers. We share the vision of creating an airport that provides passengers an efficient and pleasant travel experience," he added.

MBuan, B2

Gov't plans 2 new airports

By Paolo G. Marcelo

THE GOVERNMENT is looking at developing new airports in two of the country's increasingly popular tourist areas.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) said it has invited independent consultants to conduct a feasibility study for a new airport in Camarines Sur in Bicol.

The DOTC described Camarines Sur as "the fastest-growing tourist destination in the country." The move to develop an airport in San Jose, Camarines Sur, came up following the province's sustained growth in tourism, the DOTC said.

In 2010, Camarines Sur overtook provinces like Mt. Mayon Manila, Cebu and Boracay as the top tourism destination in the country, according to the Department of Tourism. That year, 2.33 million visitors came to the province, visiting mostly the Caramoan Peninsula Complex (CNC) and

BOTTOMLINE, B2-1

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Sept. 7, 2012
41.680

STOCK MARKET
Sept. 7, 2012
51.21

PSEi seen staying above 5,200

LOCAL stocks may stay above the 5,200 this week as investors take their cue from the US Federal Reserve's pledge to continue its round of quantitative easing via bond buybacks.

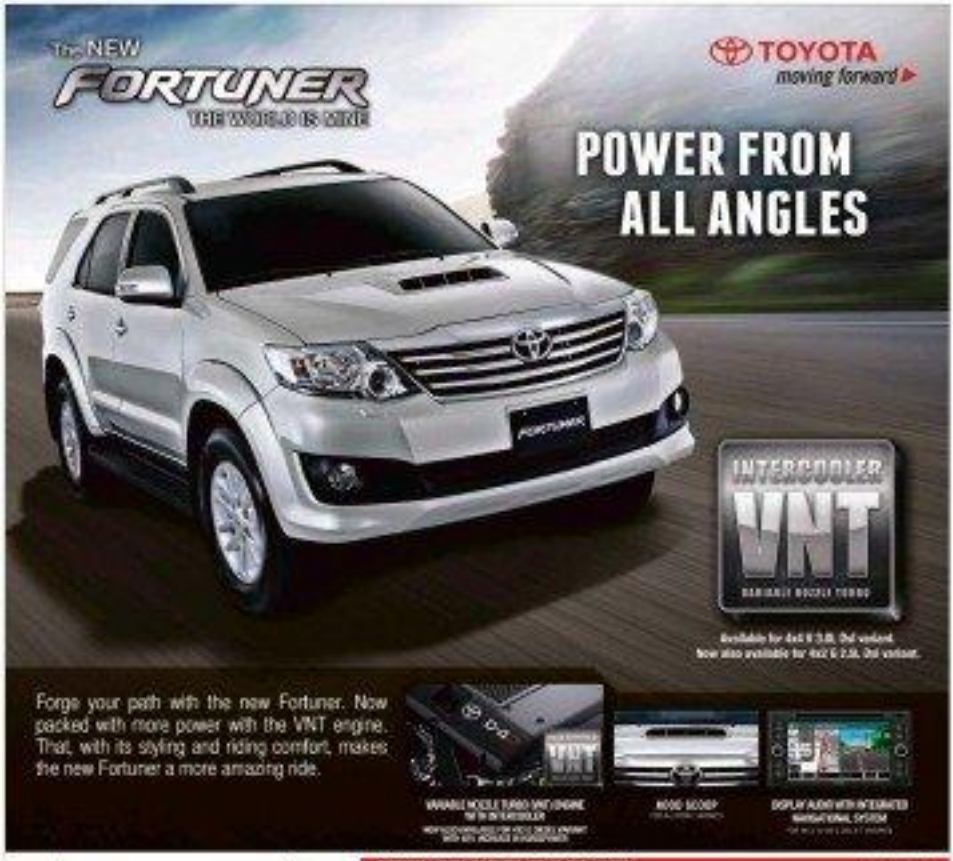
The state-owned Philippine Stock Exchange index was in the doldrums for most of last week amid the European Central Bank's announcement of a bond-buying program boosted regional markets on Friday. The index closed marginally higher (+0.1 percent) to 5,201.32 week-on-week.

For this week, 2TradeAsia.com analyst Freya May Salvador said there might be a good scare ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting. "Mas kaniluan ang possibility for the US FOMC to extend its monetary stimulus support, in step with euro zone leaders' move to support their bond-repurchase programs. Part of the expectation made stirs from Ben Bernanke's speech on Friday, the first two rounds—$1.35-trillion were buy-back in 2008-2010 and $600 billion in 2010-2011. If this is called-

PSEi, B2-1

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz:** Clean slate at DBP /B2
■ **Peza removes perks** from IT parks in MM, Cebu /B2-1
■ **Investors snap up SMC** preferred shares /B3-6



Clean slate at DBP

As we said earlier, what's happening at the Securities and Exchange Commission is linked to the fortunes of the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, the state-owned bank which Balangue is reported to be keen on joining in lieu of the corporate watchdog. DBP president Francisco Del Rosario Jr., after all, is set to leave by Sept. 30, saying he's getting older, wants to slow down and needs to avoid stress that may lead to "spondylolysis" (some ailment of the vertebrae).

But if we were to abide by the DBP shuffle, Balangue cannot assume the post of president and chief executive officer because the bank's charter requires a minimum of 10-year banking experience to qualify for the post. Thus, the latest buzz is that Balangue is instead being considered by Bidaurrazaga to replace the chair, Jose Mañosa, whose tenure has been very controversial from day one.

Still widely seen as a strong contender in the DBP presidency is BPI senior executive vice president and chief operating officer Ed Bautista, who is, incidentally, retiring from the Ayala-led bank by Sept. 30—the same date of Del Rosario's departure. Earlier asked about this, Bautistawrote neither confirmed nor denied and only avoided the topic (with a grin) by saying: "Chismis lang yan. It's just a rumor(s)."

The buzz, however, is that Bautista does not want to assume the DBP presidency too soon after his retirement. The long-time banker wants to take some time vacation, according to the grapevine, but is willing to become a public servant later on.

Whether Bautistawas can be persuaded to fill the urgent vacancy looming in the DBP in a way fraction of what he's getting from BPI remains to be seen. As for the unattractive compensation, it's not something that a presidential decree can't adjust. Boria C. Basilio

Fix the court floor

A NUMBER of businessmen have expressed growing apprehension over an offshoot of the agency, which supervises the country's lower courts that—if sec' sources are to be believed—has been wielding undue influence over the outcome of several business cases.

According to one source, this offshoot has become notorious in legal circles as well as among litigants for his "special abilities" in the field of getting local judges to decide cases for one side or the other. But it's not like all the judges he wines n dines go along willingly. On a few occasions, our source said, this official had to threaten judges with sanctions if they did not heed to his "advice."

So influential is this official that he has even managed to get lower court judges to reverse their own decisions (much to the latters' consternation) with the help of some arm twisting. Not a few in the business community are hoping that Chief Justice Lourdes Sereno will start her clean-up of the judicial system with this official. (Dare the initials are not M.M.) Jaime L. Jasmo

Change of 'CFA'

at SEC!

SINCE nothing vexxes Atty. Balangue has not claimed his seat at the Securities and Exchange Commission that was already reserved for him since July, the government has been on the lookout for a replacement and the name of another certified public accountant (CPA) and SOX alumnus is now on the spotlight.

According to the reliable grapevine, being considered to join the lawyer-dominated SEC en banc is Antonietta Ibe, a former chair of the Professional Regulation Commission. Last year, the President appointed Ibe as a member of the Board of Trustees and administrator of the Local Water Utilities Administration, but she may now fill the looming vacancy at the SEC.

Like Balangue, Ibe is said to be backed by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

Meanwhile, Raul Palabrica, a former PLDT official and Inquirer ambudsman, has earned over the boot that expired last March. Dawn C. Bantilan

Paging with phones

NETWORK upgrade issues notwithstanding, Globe Telecom is in the process of introducing a new mobile wallet service that—if successful—may herald the way we pay for goods and services locally.

Using a technology called Near Field Communication or NFC, the Ayala-controlled telco will soon launch the system based on its GCash service where a user can simply tap his phone on a point-of-sale reader or the counter, with a beeping sound confirming that the transaction has been successfully executed. (Users in Malay with Hong Kong's Octopus payment scheme will be familiar with the system, although this will use the mobile phone as a platform instead of a smart card.)

The new service boasts the need to

PLDT SME Nation comes in partnership with the Chinese-Filipino Business Club Inc. (CFBCI). CFBCI is a non-civic, non-profit organization whose primary goals is to support the government in its goal of creating an environment conducive to job creation and economic advancement. Established in 1990, CFBCI is now composed of 400 members from all over the Philippines whose membership includes pillars of the Chinese-Filipino trade and commerce, manufacturing, construction, banking, and other industries. PLDT SME Nation continually provides CFBCI members with solutions like TheOffice, WaiChat and HARDtalk to aid in business productivity. Present in the ceremony are PLDT SME Head, Jr. PLDT SME Nation Community Consultancy Head Bobby Cruz, PLDT SME Nation Area Sales Head Ben Villanueva, PLDT SME Nation Area Sales Head Ivan Ventura, PLDT SME Nation Vice President and Head Sal Lanot Abrahams, CFBCI Executive Vice President Johnny Chua, CFBCI Vice Chairman for Trade and Commerce Committee Rolly Kapila, CFBCI Chairman SME Committee Benny Ang and CFBCI Co-Chair SME Committee Jefferson Cheng.

NOTICE OF EXERCISE OF CALL OPTION

Metrobank

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Issued October 19, 2007 Due October 19, 2017
Call Option Date: October 22, 2012
Book Closure Date: October 15, 2012

As approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on September 7, 2012, Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) advises Noteholders of the exercise of its Call Option and hereby redeems all of the outstanding Notes amounting to Php 5,000,000,000 on the Call Option Date.

The Call Option Amount shall be the face value of the Notes plus accrued interest covering the relevant (20th) Interest Period as the Interest Rate as of but excluding the Call Option Date.

The last trading date for the Notes shall be on October 12, 2012. There shall be no secondary trading of the Notes and modifications in the accounts starting October 15, 2012.

Please contact the Investment Marketing and Distribution Division at telephone numbers 898-8824 and 898-8970 for more details.

(Sgd.) FABIAN S. DEE
President
Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company

Ayala, Aboitiz team up

From page B1

AEV president and chief executive Jaime Ahoitiz said his group was equally excited about the partnership with Ayala, noting it would give AEV the opportunity to enter into a strategic role in areas crucial to developing both the country's transportation infrastructure and tourism potential.

"It also allows us to harness the Aboitiz group's competencies in construction, logistics, utilities and real estate development and management. In our over a century of doing business, ABV has always been keen to play a key role in nation building and, consequently, we are therefore keen today to support the government's thrust to develop the nation's infrastructure gaps," Aboitiz said.

"Combined with the Ayala groups strengths and competencies that have also been honed over more than 100 years of doing business, we are very optimistic about the success potential of this project. Moreover, the fact that the project is in Cebu, which is home to the Aboitiz group, gives it more special meaning to us," Aboitiz said.

Zobel said both groups were looking forward to leveraging each other's strengths "in developing and running a modern airport facility that Cebu and (the) country can be proud of."

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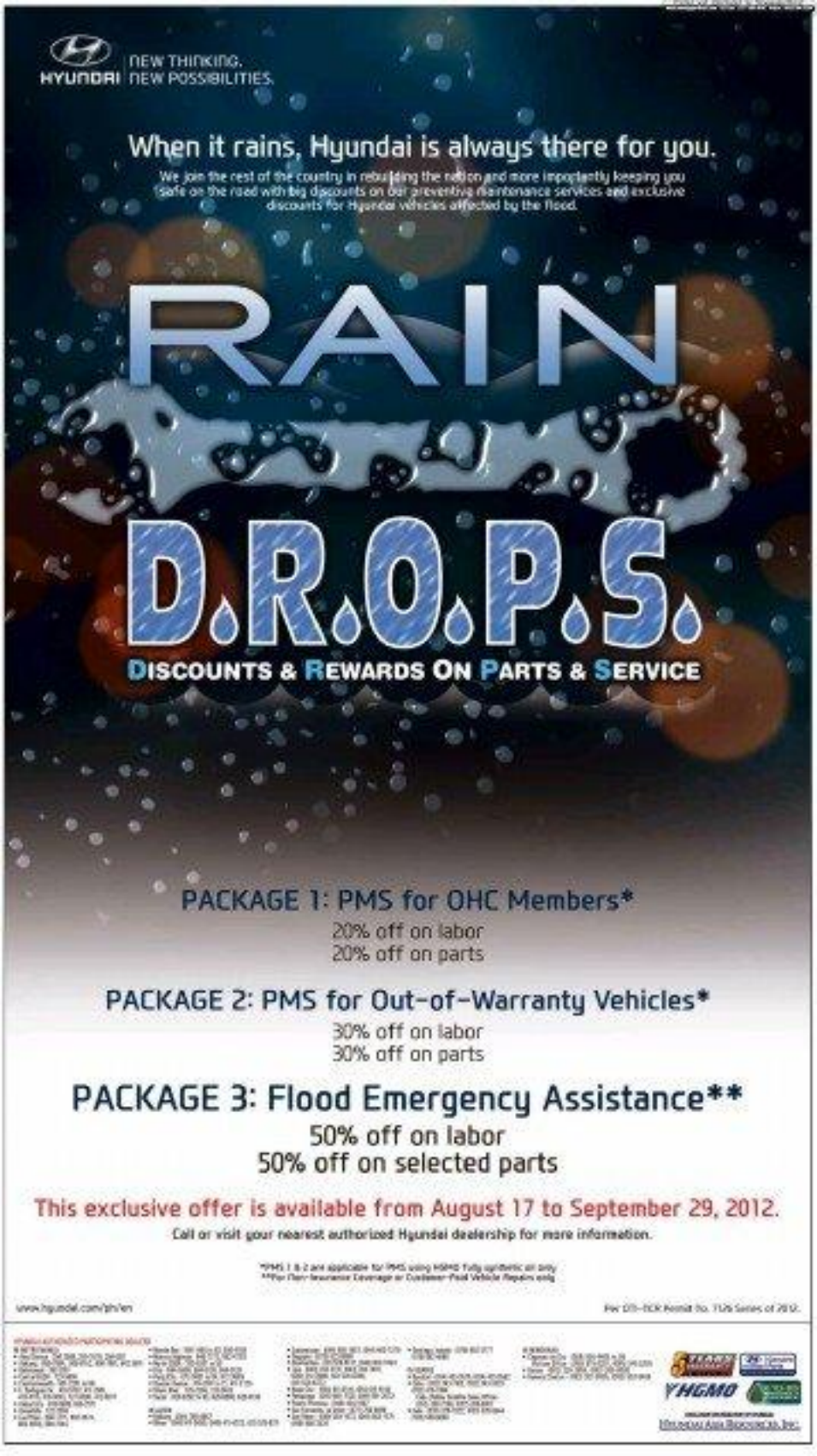
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BUSINESS

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Peza removes perks from IT parks in MM, Cebu

Policy aims to spur growth of IT parks in new areas

By Ana G. Roa

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority (Peza) has amended its incentives policies in a move to spur the growth of the information technology (IT) sector to areas outside Metro Manila and Cebu City.

In a resolution published over the weekend, Peza said that IT facilities projects to be located in the first four Peza-registered IT parks in Metro Manila and Cebu City would no longer be entitled to incentives.

Elmer Sto. Tomas, head of Peza's promotion group, said that with the new policy, IT facilities to be located in Eastwood City Cyberpark in Quezon City, Northgate Cyber Zone in Muntinlupa City, Robinsons Cyberpark in Mandaluyong City, E-Square Information Technology Park in Taguig City and Cebu IT Park would no longer be granted the special 5 percent tax on gross income.

IT facilities include buildings leased to Peza-registered/locator enterprises.

On the other hand, developers and operators of new IT parks and centers outside Metro Manila and Cebu City, including IT facilities-enterprises, will continue to enjoy the special 5 percent tax on gross income and other fiscal incentives, Peza said.

"This will ensure the dispersal of IT buildings to make areas outside Metro Manila and Cebu City attractive to investments," Sto. Tomas said in a phone interview.

Further, Peza will no longer grant incentives to developers of new special economic zones involved in manufacturing, agro-industries and tourism with an area of less than 25 hectares.

Peza previously gave incentives to developers with areas less than 25 hectares.

However, Sto. Tomas said that a new developer with an area less than 25 hectares could still be recommended for proclamation as a special economic zone for marketing purposes.

Investments in the economic zones from January to July reached P185.721 billion, up 14.9 percent from the P93.981 billion recorded in the same period last year.

PSALM pressed to reduce debt of power sector

By Amy R. Remo

THE STATE-RUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. is studying the viability of using the Malampaya Fund to help pay the power sector's debt amounting to as much as P1 trillion.

In an interview with the business, PSALM president and CEO Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr. said this was one of the options being eyed by PSALM, which has been struggling to manage the energy sector's debt that amounted to P696.5 billion as of end-2012.

"Commercially, [tapping the Malampaya fund] may sound reasonable and practical. However, PSALM still have to look into any legal constraints as well as any political considerations bearing in mind that the Malampaya royalty fees include fees that are due to the local government units where the resource is located," Ledesma told the business.

According to Ledesma, the government has moves such as unsold plants that can be used to pay outstanding obligations.

"However, there is a mismatch between the maturity profile of the financial obligations and the schedule of collection of the privatization proceeds, coupled with the apparent losses to be incurred by the continued operations of the remaining unsold expensive government owned power assets) and [contracted capacities from] independent power producers," Ledesma advised.

"This condition will continuously compel PSALM to obtain refinancing for the servicing of outstanding financial obligations," he added.

Philippine Stock Exchange

Gov't plans

From page B1

Camarines Island. The figure was 223 percent higher than the 713,024 visitors Camarines Sur had in 2008.

"Apart from CBD and Caramoan, other popular tourist destinations in the province are the Our Lady of Peñafrancia Church in Naga, the 19th-century churches in Goa, Sto. Domingo and Siruma," he said.

The DOT said it was also banking for a separate consultant to conduct a master plan study for the Calbayog Airport. Calbayog is the biggest city on Samar island in terms of population. Apart from its growing economy, Calbayog is also home to a host of natural tourist attractions such as the Sumagdang, Tabaloso and Bat-as falls, the Danao and Galas-an-sa Carot, Majaba Hot Spring, Mawanay Blue Hole, marine life, and the beaches of Malajog, Nagas and Sugarac Beach.

Biz Buzz

From page B1

carry folks or struggle with change, and is still weak with iPhones, more Blackberries, and soon, on Android phones. The operator is now being plan treated as serious Bradfield settler (sees the GCash contact pads at the counters) and will eventually be expanded to other specialty shops and retail stores nationwide.

Dennis L. Lucas

BSP in cyberspace... soon

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is soon ready to embrace the social media, whether via Twitter, Facebook or Youtube, through which it plans to broadcast key briefings and speeches made by BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. and other top officials.

But while the BSP has yet to join the Twitter world, an unauthorized account has been in existence and at one point, even listed as a verified account by the government's official gateway (dfgov.ph). The unauthorized account generated links to the BSP website.

BSP director Fe delos Cruz said the central bank recognized that social networking could be a tool to boost its advocacy on financial literacy and would soon build its presence in cyberspace. For the meantime, dfgov.ph said news from the BSP can be followed at @bsp_orthophotos.

The lesson for institutions is that if they don't establish their presence in social networking soon enough, someone else may do it for them. Doris C. Dumlao

Got business news and a preview of Biz Buzz the evening before it comes out. Text OH DIQ BUSINESS to 4387 (0916.584.4387).

PSEi seen staying above

From page B1

ed, markets will check on the amount of bond purchases planned as well as the timeline by which this will be implemented," Asiaticad said.

A larger timeframe for the Fed's bond buyback program under a prospective QE3, Asiaticad said, would support a similar run-up in equities.

"This view might be shared at home, where local monetary authorities gather cues on Sept. 13, in response to the Fed's action. An earlier-than-expected rate cut might dominate headlines, provoking jitters on earnings upside. Beyond debt servicing, would funds well on retain its equity and know price target estimates," she said.

Herbig touched 3,280. Asiaticad said the PSEi might retest 3,260-3,280 this week, driven mainly by monetary stimulus support from the United States and at home. "Large caps that lagged lately might lead the ascent, specifically for interest rate-sensitive sectors (such as property, banking, infrastructure)," she said.

AB Capital Securities said that for the last week of the expiration, Chilcon "ghost month," it was expecting volume to exceed 5,200,000 shares, "although we would still be on the lookout for leads ahead, particularly from the PSEC." Boris C. Dumlao

PH flooding

From page B1-2

nomic stability of flood insurance," the IMF report said. "In contrast, in most developing countries flood insurance is neither available nor affordable."

Prior to devolved the role of governments to help develop a functioning flood insurance system. To do this, according to Swiss Re, a government must set the rules that enable the insurance market to absorb risk.

Also, the government must act as a sponsor and facilitator of the insurance market by initially subsidizing premium, for example.

A government may also be at insurer and reinsurer for certain risks to supplement the private sector as well as a buyer of insurance and reinsurance to help fund disaster expenses before a catastrophe occurs.

Total takes over Sulu consortium

By Amy R. Remo

TOTAL E&P Philippines BV is set to take over as the operator of a prospective oil and gas block off Sulu, after it acquired a 75-per-cent stake in the Service Contract 56 license from Malaysia-based Mitra Energy Ltd.

In a statement posted on its website, Mitra Energy said it had signed the farm out agreement with Total last month, assigning the French firm the majority interest in the service contract.

Mitra Energy would retain a 25 percent interest in SC 56.

"With this new acquisition, Total continues to pursue its strategy to further expand its acreage in significant potential plays in new exploration areas, notably in deep offshore Asia Pacific," Jean-Marie Guillermou, Total senior vice president Asia Pacific, said in a separate statement.

Mitra Energy said it would initially conduct the seismic works, including the acquisition of 3000 square kilometers of additional 3D data, after which it will turn over the operatorship to Total for the drilling operations. The new exploration phase for SC 56 begins last Sept. 1.

Both parties are awaiting approval of the farm in agreement from the Department of Energy.

It was only in November last year that Mitra Energy gained 100 percent ownership of SC 56, after it acquired the 50-per-cent stake of Forum(exploration and Production Philippines B.V., and the 25-percent interest held by BHP Billiton Petroleum Pty Ltd.

The original consortium had spent $680 million for the drilling of five exploration wells within the Sandakan Basin.

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BUSINESS

Gov't may buy BSP's dollars for debt payments

Scheme seen to alleviate 'problem' of too much reserves

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT...which has to raise an equivalent of over P300 billion in US dollars for the remainder of this year and in 2014 to pay for maturing foreign obligations...may source part of its requirements from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which is trying to cope with record high foreign exchange reserves.

According to BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., the central bank and the Department of Finance have been coordinating over the dollar requirements of the national government over the short term.

Tetangco said that, given the substantial amount of foreign exchange reserves that the BSP is handling, the government is keen to tap these resources to partly meet its short term debt settlement requirements.

"We are coordinating, and the BSP expects [the government] to buy dollars from us," Tetangco told reporters.

The BSP has suggested that the government buy dollars from the domestic capital market and then use the proceeds to buy dollars from the central bank.

Under the BSP's proposal, the government would borrow from the domestic capital market and then use the proceeds to buy dollars from the central bank.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo earlier said buying dollars from the BSP would benefit the government, the central bank and the economy.

The buying of dollars from the central bank will enable foreign exchange borrowing firms to repay creditors, the government reduce its foreign exchange risk...

Powered up, watered down and built to last

BPI fuels countryside modernization with local government guaranteed loans

The Philippine countryside just got a new lease on modernization with a specially-designed loan program that encourages partnerships between local and private sectors. BPI's partnership with SGV Guarantee Corporation (SGGC), a Philippine power companies, water districts and local government units (LGUs) a much-needed push in their quest for safe water, reliable energy supply and other progressive projects in rural areas.

"These loans aim to bridge the gap between the local and private sector, allowing both to work hand in hand to address the pressing need for safe water, steady power supply and ultimately, prime-yield progressions," shares Alfonso L. Salcedo, head of BPI's Corporate Banking Group. So far, six electric cooperatives, eight water districts and four local government units have availed of these loans.

"It is a comprehensive project that helped us effectively meet the growing demand for treated water in the city until 2015."

LAMUDEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. (LUMECO) board chair Alfredo S. Pascual, left, BPI SVP Alfonso L. Salcedo Jr., LUMECO General Manager Alfonso C. Diño, LUMECO Board President Nancy C. Udtohan, Provincial Gov. R. Shal and Bombolai Falcon Group Specialist Alan Alvarezal

Power and watts' go up, rates go down

Among the first to avail of the LGU-GE loans was the Puerto Princesa City Water District (PPCWD) in late 2010. Back then, it had to design and build an infiltration gallery, water treatment plant, impounding structures, a 21.5 kV transmission line and concrete water reservoirs of up to 3,000 cubic meters among others. "It is a comprehensive project that helped us effectively meet the growing demand for treated water in the city until 2015," explains Bonnie Hernandez, OIC of the PPCWD Finance Department.

The same success story was replicated less than a year later through the South Cotabato Electric Cooperative Inc. (SOCOTECO), for its project in Barangay Mabuhay, Koronadal City, starting January 2011. SOCOTECO used the loan to reinforce 16kVA power substations, refurbish sub-transmission units and install more backups to amplify their power capacity. "After the Energy Regulatory Commission approved our projects, implementation became easy with the credit line in place. We were able to provide consumers with safe and reliable distribution lines immediately," shares Francis Leo Freike, Finance Manager of SOCOTECO.

To date, these two projects have resulted to steadier and safer power and water supplies to both rural communities. The lower interest rates and fast approval of the credit line facility have also encouraged the cooperatives in their goals of modernizing the countryside. "What's more, the benefits of these projects were felt, not just by the communities they serve, but even residents in neighboring areas," adds Salcedo.

A Hard Revelation

While power and water usually compose the most pressing needs of rural Philippine locales, the GU-GE program has also been utilized for other concerns. To note, the Municipality of Bocaue, in Bulacan, turned to the program to construct a new slaughterhouse and public market. "The project contributed greatly in the economic growth of both the town and the people. It attracted more vendors to become local entrepreneurs while its more people bought parcels of land, sending realty prices sky high," shares Mayor Bellarmino Flores III.

Flores also shared that completing the project under the GU-GE's guidance allowed for better safeguarding of funds.

"I ensured that the money was released only for the programs they were intended for. It has lessened the pressure and anxiety with our constituents fully knowing that BPI's LGU-GE project is supporting at 100%."

A Loan Less Complicated

Unlike ordinary lending measures, the unique loan guarantee arrangement allows the bank to reach new markets and contribute to countryside development, in place of the typical security set-up, BPI offers LGUs a chance to participate in public private partnerships (PPP), by allowing them to go through the partial credit guarantee cover of LGU-GE for investor-generating projects that could uplift the communities they serve.

Proponents of all these projects agree that the speedy completion of the projects can be credited to the new guarantee system, which allows BPI to process the credit line faster than usual. BPI's LGU-GE also comes complete with bankability studies that successfully gauge the potential of every project. The bank comes up with a holistic analysis in order to prepare cooperatives for crucial concerns, like paying back the loan in structured, convenient and feasible means.

Aside from bridging the gap between public and private sectors, the LGU-GE initiative falls in line with BPI's corporate commitment in nation-building – the kind that goes beyond the banking caves and metropolis. "All these efforts are in consonance with the Aquinas development's call for nationwide development, elimination of poverty, and unemployment. As a bank, we believe that projects using LGU-GE loans is an effective solution that we can ably provide," concludes Salcedo.

To know more about LGU-GE loans and finally transform prospective development ideas into reality, interested parties may visit the nearest BPI Business center, or call the following numbers: Metro Manila (02) 845-5565; (02) 845-5855; (02) 845-5572; (02) 845-5808 and (02) 845-5556; Bulacan (02) 3129484; Angeles (045) 9613878; San Fernando (045) 9615026; North Luzon (075) 5139556; Baguio (074) 4788443; San Pablo (049) 5620; Tarlac (045) 9613878; Batangas (043)7217877; Sumulong (043) 4132384; Iloilo (033) 3319024; Dumaguete (035)4226177; Cagayan de oro (088)8562894; Davao (082) 235-5553; and Cebu (032) 4106469.

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga Espino

RM awardee finds treasures in the mundane

THERE are treasures lying just beneath the surface, this is the lesson Chen Shu-jin learned in life. Now she wants to share this lesson with others.

Chen Shu-jin, one of the six recipients of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award, is living proof of how even an ordinary vegetable vendor can practice extraordinary altruism even in the face of poverty.

Right from attending the awarding ceremonies, Chen only specifically wanted to visit a wet market in the Philippines.

She then paid a visit to the Cartimar wet market on the morning of August 29.

Awareness

Her visit to the wet market is something she considers close to her heart. She started helping her father in running their vegetable stall at the tender age of 13.

Having experienced deep poverty-ness and adversities before and what most can only imagine, Chen developed a strong awareness of the plight of ordinary people.

Some 30 years ago, she and her family could not afford a guarantee deposit for her pregnant mother to be admitted to a hospital. Eventually, her mother suffered a miscarriage and passed away.

Chen later on lost her two brothers. The losses proved to be devastating. Still, she remained.

Having known the pain of the underprivileged, she held her head up and persevered, using the hardships as motivation to help others who are in need, whenever it would take.

Into or three, she ran her vegetable stall for more than 50 years. She would then donate most of her earnings to hospitals, schools and orphanages, hoping to help the needy.

Ang Lee, the Academy Award-winning film director, once said that "what's so wonderful about life. Chen's achievements is not to overconfirm but that that it is so simple and matter of fact in its generosity. Ms. Chen [believes] that money serves its purpose only when it is used for those who need it."

Genuine

Chen Shu-jin may not have donated as much money as the likes of Bill Gates, but her love and care for those in need are genuine.

"The best part in life is to accomplish what one wishes to complete, and pursue in one's conscious pursuit of his or her accomplishments", says Chen, vowing that she will continue to run her vegetable stall and donate whatever she earns as she pursues charity.

Her world may revolve around that small vegetable stall, but her way of loving, caring, and sharing seems to strengthen those engaged in charity and altruism.

CHEN Shu-jin (center) is accompanied by Taiwan representative Ambassador Raymond L.S. Wang (back), the ambassador's wife Jenny Wang (right) and Alex Tong (left) of the Taiwan Overseas Cooperative Affairs.

In this overly pragmatic society, people tend to eagerly acquire as much material satisfaction as possible.

Appreciation

What we truly need is a lesson appreciate in more for those in need around us.

Life is a series of ups and downs. Only values we have experienced dissolutions and hardships somehow will see eventually realize what life is all about.

Chen Shu-jin's life reminds us that we should all be thankful and appreciative of what we have in our lives.

Indeed, she epitomizes ordinariness, and yet she has managed to touch so many lives by giving everything she could without expectations.

As the famous adage goes, "It is the kindness in helping someone who cannot give anything back."

Chen Shu-jin has set an enlightening example of true kindness—selflessness and charity that is not bounded by circumstances or material wealth.

Sign of good luck

In her visit to the Cartimar Flower Market, Chen was joined by Ambassador Raymond Wang of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office and other officials.

Chen was warmly received by the Cartimar business representatives and stall owners of the wet market.

Chen was presented with a large rudisk by representatives of the vegetable stall owners—an act that is considered to be a sign of good luck in Taiwanese culture.

Chen's charitable deeds may even inspire the stall owners in the Cartimar wet market—anyone of whom may even be a future recipients of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay award.

Chen was conferred her award during the 2012 Ramon Magsaysay awarding ceremony held last August 31.

Transformative change for inclusive growth

WE LIVE in highly interesting and challenging times. On one hand, we have global economies still trying to recover from a downturn that started back in 2008 with the global financial crisis. Concern around the economies of the euro area as well as the US continues to be front and center in many perception surveys conducted by various agencies around the world.

This has prompted a label that we now live in a "VUCA world"—volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous.

On the other hand, against this backdrop, the Philippines is today one of the few bright spots in the global economy. Our relatively young and growing workforce, the increasing demand for talents to drive the business process outsourcing and hospitality sectors and the rapid urbanization of major population centers around the country within a radius of greater reach as governments have locked in on infrastructure as one major cause. These, however, are still few and far between as these benefits have not really taken root in a broader base of the populace.

Unfortunately, our aspirations for true sustainable economic growth and prosperity will remain elusive unless we address many long-entrenched problems that have remained unresolved, especially those that contribute to the inclusiveness and sustainability of our environment...perpetuate the vicious cycle of poverty, and weaken governance in public and private institutions.

It is for this reason that the MAP CEO Institutional Conference Committee has selected the theme: "Transformative Change: The Impetus of Inclusive Growth." Businesses today are increasingly expected to take a broader and more expansive role in society. The old way of doing business is regarded, now more than ever, as leaving significant social conflict to help address development and societal ills.

Private enterprise cannot operate in a vacuum and it is in their practical and strategic interest to ensure the prosperity of the communities where they operate in. Building trust and relevance in this new imperative.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs have been the response of private enterprises. However, while these programs are important, they have remained limitations with funding, human resources, and infrastructure constraints due impede these programs from reaching the scale and impact necessary to deliver more permanent and lasting solutions to the serious problems we have at hand. Making a transformative change requires resources well beyond what is available now from nongovernment institutions, international aid or charities.

It is in this context that we believe in the pursuit of inclusive growth is the key. It is where private businesses become the agents to have a positive, lasting impact on social development issues. But for businesses to engage "beyond CSR," it is critical to have a more imaginative, systemic model that takes off from a platform where social issues are integrated into and are made central, rather than adjacent, to business strategy. This is increasingly becoming an important perspective as the private sector seeks to build a larger measure of trust with the communities and constituents it serves. It is all about "creating shared value," as referred to by Michael Porter in a recent article in the Harvard Business Review.

Before commercial solutions can meet the needs of all sectors, especially those of low-income customers, have the potential of creating social and economic value for their households and communities.

We are excited to bring to the 38th Management Association of the Philippines Annual International CEO Conference 2012 an impressive panel of speakers and moderators who will give us insights into what has been done and what can be done so that we, in turn, can figure out what we can do to help promote truly inclusive growth in our country.

We invite you to come and join in the more in depth discussion of Transformative Change: The Imperative of Inclusive Growth at the MAP Conference to be held on Sept. 11, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Bay Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La.

The sessions will feature presentations such as Building Bridges for Transformation Through Education, Capitalizing on Imperative Change: A Top Priority of Business Leaders, Business Building the Momentum for Inclusive Growth, Rebuilding Value and Valuing the Brand, Transformative Change: The Leadership Lens, The Courage to be Led, and Innovation as a Catalyst for Transformative and Inclusive Growth. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jesus Estanislao, chair of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia and the Institute of Corporate Directors.

For reservations or inquiries, please visit www.mapconferences.ph or contact the MAP Secretariat via 750-1149 to 52, map@globelines.com.ph or map@globelines.net.ph, email: map@globelines.com.ph. for previous articles, please visit http://org.ph/.

Telus lends helping hand to the arts

By Vanessa B. Hidalgo

WE GIVE where we live.

This is Telus International (Philippines)' motto that moves its corporate social responsibility portfolio to reach out to grassroots community and give donations to local organizations in fund small-scale projects.

This year, the TIP Community board has allocated 100,000 Canadian dollars to nongovernment organizations which serves as an outlet's arts and culture, education and sports or health and well-being.

Recently, TIP awarded its first grant worth $ 10,000 to the Philippine Legislature Artists Group (Philtagle), the country's only artistic organization dedicated to the preservation of traditional performing arts in schools.

Last February, TIP expanded its efforts to give back to the community with the establishment of the TIP Community board with Janice Telfer as chair.

"The first grant will fund up to three months of artistic activities for children from our GK villages. These will include trips to the ballet, the children's theater, cultural shows and workshops. Philtagle will also conduct a similar follow-on project for children from flood-stricken communities," says Telfer.

TIP is still on the lookout for more opportunities with schools it can share its love with. Right now, they have received 20 applications.

CANADIAN Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird and his children at the Telus General Kalinga Village.

Telfer, one of the leading Telecom industry in Canada, is currently overseeing the second grant to be given to an organization focused on community economic especially to areas heavily affected by the floods.

Applications are reviewed in the same way that the organization is aligned to one of three themes that TIP is funding. The board also has a general rule that organizations will be funded to one program per organization per year. The funding is not intended to support the general operations of an organization.

TIP president Jeff Ubbelt, who has made a home in the Philippines and is married to a Filipina, advises the dedication of the 30 hours to charitable events. He personally witnessed how Filipinos walk the talk when he was invited to build homes for General Kalinga.

For Ubbelt, the Philippines has indeed cemented its title as the capital of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) in Asia. He describes the country as a special and extraordinary place for BPO.

"There's really something special here. The Filipinos have the attitude, desire to please, the fluency in the English language and they are acquainted with western culture. Even their accent is endearing and I have seen the passion and willingness to learn. I sometimes think that they are too good to be true," he said.

Ubbelt also shared the experience and advice for organizations that would like to start their own foundation or charitable endeavor.

"Be sure you are passionate about what you are doing. Do not just write a check and walk away. Be involved in the process and be sure to have fun," he said.

Aegis makes it to the top in BPO sector

AEGIS, a global business services and outsourcing management company has again made the 2012 Global Services 100 list of companies.

It has also emerged among the top players in the three-tiered to 2011 categories—top global BPO leaders, global customer management leaders, niche leaders in industry-specific BPOs, leading specialty BPO service providers, and leading and fast-growth customer management vendors.

This is the seventh edition of the annual list compiled by Global Services Media, a firm that connects buyers and service providers in the global IT services and BPO industry, and Info Advisors, a consulting firm that leverages outsourcing and globalization to enable organizational transformation.

Aegis has steadily built capabilities and competencies in its outsourcing, technology, consulting, and training and education solutions, helping it improve its standings in the 2011 listing.

The Global Services 100 list and its various categories evaluate service providers on four key parameters—performance and leadership, quality and maturity of customers, breadth of services offered, and spread of global delivery capabilities.

"Being featured yet again in Global Services 100 reflects our commitment and drive to provide superior customer experience to our customers," said Ajaytej Sengupta, Aegis' managing director and global CEO. "Our unique delivery and delivery approach to customer management has changed the customers' paradigm from cost savings and efficiency enablement to customer lifetime value enhancement and transformational partnerships with suppliers."

According to Global Services editor Ed Nite "The companies on the Global Services 100 list have demonstrated their ability to deliver complex solutions and services, manage global customers, and maintain outstanding performance."

Ayala bent on putting up ₱1.3-B plant in Bohol

But local gov't still concerned about safety issues

By Amy R. Borro

CEBU, Philippines – Ayala Corp. remained keen on pursuing the ₱1.3 billion 9-megawatt Cantuba river hydropower project in Bohol despite the opposition lodged by an local government unit on concerns about safety and the environment.

Eric T. Francia, managing director and group head for corporate strategy and development of Ayala, said that although the project remains in the pipeline, it is currently on hold until the joint venture implementing the project is able to address all the issues raised against the project.

"We are in discussions with some stakeholders in Bohol at the provincial board level about the concerns that they raised. I don't think it is necessary to generalize this as 'everybody opposed to the project' scenario. That said, we are cognizant of the board members' concerns and are in dialogue with them to eventually find ways to address any outstanding issue and progress with the project," Francia explained.

"It is a good renewable energy project and will benefit the people of Bohol," he further stressed.

The proposed mini hydropower project is being undertaken by Quadriver Energy Corp., a joint venture company of the Ayala-led AC Energy which holds a 75-percent stake, and Sta. Clara Power Corp., which owns the remaining 30 percent.

According to previous reports, the target of the coastal town of Inabanga, Bohol, sought the cancellation of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) awarded to the Cantuba power project.

Town Mayor Jose Antonino was quoted in reports as saying that the local government opposed the project due to the "clear, present danger" that the Cantuba plant would pose to "our people's well-being and right to healthy environment" which he vowed should not be sacrificed.

The Cantuba power project is one of a handful of mini hydropower projects that Ayala intends to undertake with Nia Cleo Power, which holds several service contracts for hydropower projects. The partnership will involve at least 100 MW worth of capacity, Francia earlier said.

More big banks keen on buying up weak players

By Michelle S. Basco

A STRING of acquisitions in the banking sector may be in the offing, with several large banks expressing interest to take over undercapitalized rural banks.

According to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, universal and commercial thrift banks are keen on accepting the incentives being offered by the regulator to those that will acquire troubled rural banks.

Last month, the BSP issued the implementing guidelines of the "Strengthening Program for Rural Banks (Dti)," where an unspecified set of incentives are offered to banks that are willing to acquire weaker players in the ruralbanking subsector.

"[The SPRB Plus] is quite promising. There has been significant interest in the program," BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. told the business.

Espenilla said he could not yet disclose the details. But the BSP is optimistic that the interest expressed by larger banks may translate into actual acquisitions within the short term.

Last week, Banco de Oro chair Tessie Sycip-Gozon told reporters BDO was in search of more commercial banks to acquire as a means to expand. However, she said, there are no commercial banks interested in merging with BDO at the moment.

For now, she said, BDO will put up new branches on its own.

Gozon also said BDO would look into the opportunity being offered by the regulator for the acquisition of rural banks.

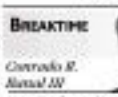
Under the old incentives program the central bank and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. would grant loans to strong rural banks that would acquire weaker ones so that they could meet rebanking their capital base. Other forms of regulatory relief were also offered to potential investors.

But the old program failed to generate interest among strong players in the rural banking subsector. It was for true reason before the BSP issued the SPRB Plus last month.

The new program offers incentives even to commercial and thrift banks that are interested in acquiring unhealthy rural banks.

The BSP and PDIC jointly established the incentives programs to address failures in the rural banking sector of the past three years.

Steel's the show



BREAKTIME

Conrado S. Bacsal III

SOONER or later, according to our steel manufacturers, their baby industry will die, and it will be a painful death in the hands of the Chinese government.

It seems that the latest chaos in steel news is the dumping of cheap steel from China into the hands of some willing accomplices in the Philippines. The said thing is that the imported steel gets huge subsidies from the Chinese government.

They are nevertheless quite open (notable subsidies, possibly even it legal.

The most vocal among the steel manufacturers, earlier we offered "dumping" in Steel Asia, which in round some $600 million on a round on steel making factory in Bukawan, said to have a capacity of about 1.3 million metric tons a year.

Steel Asia themselves has a deep interest in fighting the nuclear competition from imported highly subsidized steel from China. The company is fighting for dear life.

From what I gathered, Steel Asia president Benjamin Sio already wrote a letter to Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo to complain about the unfair competition that the local industry must face from the steel dumped from China.

Actually the imported steel comes in the form of "billets," which are the raw materials for so-called integrated producers such as Steel Asia or Gerdau. Billets ultimately must be classified as semi-finished product, thus disqualifying them from the subsidy given by the Chinese government for exports of finished goods.

But some bright business crooks apparently came up with the method to go around the subsidy rule. With interest of steel, they simply shipped the billets with an element called "boron," which is an unnecessary element in steel, according to the local steel industry. The "boron" thus allows the billets to be classified, or more appropriately "misclassified," as scheduled product to qualify for Chinese government subsidies.

Upon reaching the Philippines, the importers simply declare the billets as square bars, and, bingo, the crooks win again.

To think, China is now the world's biggest steel manufacturer, with a capacity of about 900 million MTs a year, or against the 60 million MT capacity of the United States. Thus, China can cover the entire demand in the Philippines with honestly subsidized steel, and the Chinese government may not even feel any effect from the subsidy.

According to the local fledgling steel industry, all the billets used in the Philippines are equivalent to less than one-fourth of one percent...yes, not even one percent...of the manufacturing capacity in China.

In other words, the relatively small subsidy on billets—through the fraudulent scheme of declaring them as square boron-alloyed bars—can already kill the entire steel industry in the Philippines.

To top it all, steel producers have long downturns in the manufacturing process, and most of them already resorting to the highly subsidized "square" bars from China.

Thus the local steel manufacturers fear that most of them simply would rely on Chinese subsidized imports, instead of investing in their own modern facilities here, a desperate chore that, they said, would be bad for the country in the long run.

In fact, according to the local industry, many other countries threatened with subsidized steel products from China have already taken action to protect their merchandising industry.

So far what can the administration of our leader Benigno Simeon Aquino (BS) possibly do about the "dumping"...those investments in China again? Really, critical issues like this need a little more concrete action. How about proposing a stiff penalty on those crooks? Before you, let's put them in jail.

* * *

Aside from the heavily subsidized "billets" from China disguised as "square bars," the local steel industry must deal with rampant smuggling.

One local company, going by the name of Aspland Industries, often registered blips in the industry's anti-smuggling radar. One close case was detected last May, when Aspland had a shipment of finished steel wire rods. The company's reported duly declared value of the shipment is only $279 per MT. Surprise—the prevailing value of steel wire rods at the time ranged from $640 to $700 per MT.

Clearly, according to the steel industry, as represented by the Philippine Iron and Steel Institute, and the Galvanized Iron Wire Manufacturing Association, Aspland was declaring the value of its imported products at less than half the prevailing market prices.

Again, that is less than half! Meaning, the duties and taxes would also be cut by more than half!

From what I gathered, Aspland is based in Mandaue (Cebu), and is one of operates a circle steel rolling plant in that city. Thus, the company derives its business activities mainly from the importation of finished steel products.

Former sources alerted in the industry about steel companies that represents imported steel products into steel bars. It is said that no questions, sometimes not stated wire rods, rolled together, to pass off as reinforcing steel bars.

The local industry anyway reports to the Bureau of Customs that Aspland was able to import wire rods at prices way below the local price for a long period. Surely, some records in the disposal of the cheap metal exists?

In the business community, it is widely known that such blatant cases of smuggling could not be possible without the help of customs officials, particularly the customs collector.

But when the local industry complained to the Department of Customs, they got a rather simplistic explanation: the BOC commissioner, who happens to be a former congressman who took up med-tech in school, going by the name of Rozanno Rufino Biazon, could not do anything because the BOC follows the so-called "transaction value method" to examine taxes and duties on imported products.

It is a rather uncomplicated method in which the importer simply presents documents to the BOC that state the value of the shipment, provided that the documents are recognized in the country of origin, and—presto—the shipment gets the green light.

The local industry used a word to describe that flaw in the system, and it is none other than their discretion. You know, there may be so much of it on the part of the BOC officials.

It is almost similar to corrupt practices in aviation.

Republic of the Philippines
RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
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Tel. No. 9999999
Email: rmtu@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents of the Ramon Magsaysay Technological University formally and publicly announces that the Search for the Position of the President of RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY or RMTU, interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications and/or nominations to the Chairman, BOARD OF REGENTS, RMTU.

Applicants must possess the following minimum qualifications:

a. Not less than forty-five (45) years old and not more than sixty-one (61) years old at the time of application;
b. A natural-born Filipino citizen;
c. Holder of an earned doctorate degree from a recognized higher education institution;
d. Must have served as an administrative (President, Vice-President, Dean, College administrative officials and Department Head positions) in the academe or academic institutions for at least five (5) years in a private, for at least ten (10) years in a public;
e. For candidates who have not previously served as CEO (President, he/she must not have been removed or dismissed from such position, whether the penalty is more than one (1) year;

Note: An applicant who does not meet any one of the above-mentioned minimum qualifications and cannot submit pertinent supporting documentary evidences shall be disqualified from the search process.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit the following:

1. Formal application letter addressed to:
HON. ALFREDO B. VILLAGRACIA
Chairperson
Commission on Higher Education
Higher Education Development Center
C.P. Garcia Avenue, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 981-8500 loc. 2301/2302
Email Address: [illegible]
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae signed under oath and authenticated by their respective agencies;
3. Certified true copy of documents in support of the data stated in the Curriculum Vitae;
4. Proposed Vision, Mission and Development Goals to be RMTU;
5. Certified true copies from the following government agencies, obtained not more than sixty (60) days from the date of filing of application, stating applicant has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude, should the identity or name that appears on the records:
   a. Clearance from:
   b. Civil Service Commission;
   c. National Bureau of Investigation;
   d. Municipal/Regional Trial Court;
   e. Ombudsman (for government employees);
   f. Professional Regulation Commission (applicant is a licensed professional)
6. Medical Certificate;
7. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a physician from an DOH-recognized government hospital or medical facility, which shall be conducted not earlier than six (6) months before the application is formally employed;
8. Results of Psychological/psychiatric examination conducted by a physician from a DOH-recognized government hospital or medical facility, which shall be conducted not earlier than six (6) months before the application is formally employed;
9. Duly accomplished PDS Form 212 (latest); and

Interested applicants are requested to submit seven (7) sets including one (1) original of their formal applications and other supporting documents on or before October 1, 2013.

DR. ANTONIO M. VILLAGRACIA
Chairman, RMTU BOR
Holy Angel University
Pampanga
Tel. No. (045) 888-5115

DR. FREDY G. ANTONIO
Executive Secretary, RMTU BOR / Secretariat
Ramon Magsaysay Technological University
Iba, Zambales
Tel. No. (047) 811-1901

Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Ulas 3, 8000 Davao del Norte, Philippines
Telephone Nos. (082) 234-5678 / (082) 234-5679
Website: http://www.davaocitywaterdistrict.com

INVITATION TO BID

The Davao City Water District now invites interested bidders to participate in the bidding of the herein-identified projects, as follows:

PROJECT 1

Name of Project: REHABILITATION OF 5,000 CMD DIRECT PRODUCTION WELL NO. 5 PUMPING FACILITIES

Location: Purok Ilang-Talomo, Davao City

Brief Description: Civil Works, Electrical Works and Procurement of a rotating structure permanent type, Deep Well Submersible Construction of Control House, Perimeter Fence, Chain Fence, Works & Earth Filling, Concrete Works, Electrical Works, Installation of Electrical Facilities, Mechanical Works, Procurement and Installation of Submersible Pump and Motor, and Structural Works

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): Six Million Two Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Pesos (Php 6,265,000.00)

Contract Duration: 120 Calendar Days

PROJECT 2

Name of Project: CONSTRUCTION OF TWIN PIPELINE FOR 600 MM DIAMETER WATER TRANSMISSION FROM MRA NO. 3

Location: Malagatol, Davao Panabo, Davao City

Brief Description: The work includes: a) Construction of Temporary Facilities (field engineer's office), MRA, Site Development, Preparation of Control Points, Pipeline Construction Work, Perimeter Fence, Concrete Works, Excavation, Backfilling and Compaction, Trenching, Pipe Supports (Anchorage and Thrust Blocks), Installation of Steel Pipes, Valves, Fittings, Manholes, Air Valve Chamber, Blow-off Chamber, Testing and Disinfection, Restoration of Roads, Utility Lines, and Surface Works; Concrete Mixing Operations, Erection and Dismantling of Formworks, Installation of Reinforcing Bars, Concrete Placement, Curing, Concrete Finishing, Steel Construction Supervision, Steel Erection Bridge(s), Metal Deck and Steel Construction Supervision, Civil Engineering Works, Electrical Works, Mechanical Works, Painting and Coating Works, Testing and Commissioning, Occupational Safety and Health Program

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): Eight Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 8,200,000.00)

Contract Duration: 120 Calendar Days

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. For this purpose, contracts similar to the Project shall be: **Project 1** – Rehabilitation of Deep Well; **Project 2** – Installation of at least 600MM Vertical Line Electrical Submersible Pump.

Prospective bidders to be considered eligible to bid should have a Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license and registration for the following:

FOR CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE:
LICENSE PARTICULARS: Classification: General Engineering / General Building
Category: Medium Infrastructure / Medium Industrial

REGISTRATION PARTICULARS: Mechanical Trades, Building and Industrial Plant
Trade Eligibility: Construction Site Design (SMALL A)

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the amount of PHP5,000.00 for Project 1 and PHP10,000.00 for Project 2. A copy of the Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the website of the Davao City Water District at www.davaocitywaterdistrict.com. Bidders shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of bids.

The Davao City Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **September 23, 2013 (10:00 AM)** at the Board Room, 2nd Floor, Davao City Water District Building, Ulas 3, Davao City, which shall be open to all interested parties. However, only those who purchased the Bidding Documents shall be allowed to participate in the pre-bid conference. To ensure attendance and participation in the pre-bid conference, all prospective bidders are advised to email their queries or clarifications not later than **September 20, 2013**.

Bids must be submitted on or before **October 8, 2013 (10:00 AM)** to the address given below. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in the IRR and in the relevant section of the Philippine Bidding Documents. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Bids and Awards Committee
Davao City Water District
Ulas 3, 8000 Davao del Norte, Philippines
Telephone Nos. (082) 234-5678 / (082) 234-5679
Fax No. (082) 234-5680
Website: http://www.davaocitywaterdistrict.com

The Davao City Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, interested bidders may contact the Bidding Documents Unit of the Davao City Water District at the address below: Attention: Mr. Nicholas A. Duque at the address and contact numbers stated above from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

Date of Publication: 16 September 2013
(Signed)
ENGR. ROMEO G. ARCEO
Bids and Awards Committee

(ESA – Sept. 16, 2013)

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Republic of the Philippines
EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Tacloban City

Search for Presidency of Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU)

The Board of Regents of Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU), Tacloban City formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency is **NOW OPEN**.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Must not be less than forty-five (45) years old and not more than sixty-one (61) years old at the time of application;
2. Must be a natural born Filipino citizen;
3. Must be a holder of an earned doctorate degree from a reputable Higher Education Institution (HEI);
4. Must have a proven track record as administrator (President, Vice-President, Campus Administrator, Director, Supervisor, Chief) preferably in the academe, whether in public or private, for at least five (5) years;
5. Must not have been convicted of any administrative offense or of any crime involving moral turpitude.

Documentary Requirements:

Interested applicants must submit one (1) set of original and one (1) copy certified photocopies of the following documents:

1. Formal application Letter addressed to the Chairperson of EVSU:
   HON. PATRICIA B. LICUANAN, Ph.D.
   CHED Chairperson
   4th Floor, DFNF Building, C.P. Garcia Avenue
   UP Diliman, Quezon City
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV), signed under oath;
3. Certified true copy of documents in support of the data stated in the CV;
4. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission, and Development Goals for the University;
5. Certified true copies/clearance from the following government agencies, obtained not more than one (1) month from the date of filing of application, indicating that the applicant has not been convicted of any administrative offense or crime involving moral turpitude:
   - Clearance from:
   - Ombudsman (for government employees);
   - Civil Service Commission (CSC);
   - National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
   - Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) (applicant is a licensed professional)
6. NSO-authenticated Birth Certificate;
7. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by authorized Philippine government hospital or medical facility, which shall be conducted not earlier than six (6) months before the application is formally employed;
8. Result of Psycho-psychiatric Examination conducted by a physician from a DOH-recognized government hospital or medical facility, which shall be conducted not earlier than six (6) months before the application is formally employed;
9. Duly accomplished CSC Form 212, latest under oath.

Important: Above-mentioned documentary requirements must be submitted properly labeled and organized on or before **September 30, 2013** to:

Dr. Lilia Hilot-Ed Garcia
CHED Regional Office 8
Tacloban City

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LEGAL NOTICE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Republic of the Philippines
BCDA
Bases Conversion and Development Authority

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested Proponents to submit proposals for the Privatization and Development of Lot 3A Portion of Serving Range and Lot 10A Nichols Loop Property with an approximate aggregate area of 10,844.73 sq.m. located along South Superhighway, Makati City.

Interested Proponents may purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the privatization and development of the Property which outlines the requirements, procedures, methodology and criteria for evaluation and selection of proposals.

The TOR shall be made available to Interested Proponents from **September 17 to October 11, 2013** on a non-refundable basis of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PHP50,000.00), payable to BCDA in cash, manager's check or cashier's check.

A Pre-bid Conference for the subject Properties among Interested Proponents shall be held on **10:00 a.m. on September 26, 2013** at the BCDA Operations Conference Room, 7/F BCDA Corporate Center, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. The objective of the Pre-bid Conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other issues that may be raised by Interested Proponents.

Interested Proponents may direct their queries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
Asset Disposition Program-4 Committee
Bases Conversion and Development Authority
BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center
31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Email Address: [illegible]@bcda.gov.ph or [illegible]@bcda.gov.ph

Or contact Ms. Bernice L. Arnaiz at telephone numbers 575-1700 or 816-1963.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MENA D. RADOS
Chairman
ADP Phase 3 Committee

(ESA – Sept. 9, 12 & 16, 2013)

Judge Emelita Habacon - Garayblas

Peacefully joined our Lord
on September 7, 2012 at the age of 69.

Her bereaved husband **Sec. Rafaelito M. Garayblas**; children **Mailee** & **Raymond**; **Raffa** & **Allan**; **Guido**; **Pio** & **Heidi** and **Paulo**; grandchildren **Tim**, **Tom**, **Trisha**, **Sabie**, **Franco**, **Pimpy** and **Pedro**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, (Felicidad Chapel), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 3:00pm at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

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"Come and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up."
– Hosea 6:1

In Memory of

Fidel delos Reyes Reyes

Nov. 24, 1930 – Sept. 10, 2011

On his First Death Anniversary

His bereaved wife, Nimfosa, together with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren request relatives, friends, and pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

Masses at

San Pascual de Baylon Church	Obando, Bulacan	Sept. 10 6 am
San Diego de Alcala Church	Pritil, Tondo, Manila	Sept. 10 6:30 am
Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish	Philam Homes, Quezon City	Sept. 10 6:30 am & 6 pm
Archdiocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Gracia	Manila	Sept. 10 6 am & 6 pm
St. Paul the Apostle Parish	Timog, Quezon City	Sept. 10 6 pm

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Advise caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any Identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT - MESSAGE OF THANKS - DEATH ANNIVERSARY - REQUIEM - FREE ART DESIGN

ROBERTO GARCIA JONGCO

Dalawampu't Dalawang taon na ang nakalipas
Iniwan mong ala ala di pa rin kumukupas
Pag-ibig sa'yo, tagay hanggang wakas.

Alang lilang sa Prong Maykapal,
Mukha't tinatanaw ka lang nasil,
Mukapeling sa lahat ng sandal.

Sayo at ang sa inisan,
Sa akin, mga anak, apo at kaibigan.
Patuloy na nagniniting isday
Upang maabala ka at ang kabuhlan mong tapisy.

Nagmamahal sa iyo,
Milanie

Masses are offered at the following churches:

St. Paul, Timog corner Mo. Ignacia, QC
7:30 AM
12:05 PM
6:00 PM

Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Philam, Las Pilas
6:00 AM Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
13th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City
6:00 AM Mass

"And she shall live in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23

SR. MARY PILAR L. VERZOSA RGS

(Pilar Labao Verzosa)
of Vigan, Ilocos Sur
September 24, 1941 - September 8, 2012

On September 8, 2012, our dear Sister Mary Pilar peacefully joined Jesus, the Good Shepherd, after 41 years in religious life.

The Religious of the Good Shepherd, apostolic and contemplative, the bereaved family and relatives are grateful for your prayerful remembrance.

The wake is at the Good Shepherd Chapel, 1043 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City.
Masses at 6 p.m. on September 9, 10 & 11, 2012
The Mass of the Resurrection is on Wednesday, September 12 at 3:00 p.m. Interment follows at the Good Shepherd Columbary.

BUSINESS

Investors snap up SMC preferred shares

Bankers report strong sales as offer winds down

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONGLOMERATE San Miguel Corp. is running a fine-tooth comb on retail offering of preferred shares worth as much as P80 billion this week, with growing interest for the issue, according to bankers familiar with the deal.

"The momentum has been strong since the start and we expect it stronger toward the last week as orders pile in," said one of the bookrunners of the single largest capital-raising activity in the country to date.

"The retail take-up is very good and it's coming from all over the country," the bookrunner added.

SMC is offering as much as 1.087 billion in new SMC preferred shares in an issue price of P75 per share. The base offer comprises 960 million shares with an option to register by 107 million shares.

The offering will run until Sept. 14 or Friday this week while the listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange is targeted by Sept. 26.

The bookrunners for the offering were: HSBC, Union Bank, BDO Capital, China Bank, SCBC Capital, First Metro Investment Corp., ING Bank, Philippine Commercial Capital Inc., Standard Chartered Bank, SB Capital and United Coconut Planters Bank.

The preferred shares are redeemable starting on the 3rd year, 5th year and 7th year and every dividend payment thereafter or SMC will otherwise pay a higher interest rates. Such "step-up" rates will be effective on the 5th, 7th and 10th year, respectively, if the shares are not redeemed by then.

Dividend rates per annum on the sub-series that carries a step-up rate in five years is 7.5 percent and that on sub-series with step-up rate on 7th year is 7.625 percent. The sub-series that will have a step-up rate in 10 years will be paid a dividend rate of 8 percent per annum. There will be a 10 percent tax on retail investors.

As to what is driving demand for the preferred shares, the bookrunner said: "There are no alternative investments available, and since the way step-up is a synthetic security and strong dividend history, then it becomes a compelling investment to those that rely on fixed income investments."

In a separate interview, a stock analyst said SMC's creditworthiness remained comfortable. "I estimate that SMC generates around P16 billion in net operating profit, less of interest tax and existing debt service. This means that they are able to earn profits that can service debt and taxes equal to P16 billion, which is more than sufficient to cover the preferred share dividend payout."

Meanwhile, another stock broker said a key risk to this investment was if bond interest rates shoot up in the future, which means that SMC may opt not to redeem these perpetual bonds. Another risk is if there would be usage on the listing of the preferred shares on the PSE, which will otherwise change assumptions on issuance and exit options. Both risks are deemed minimal.

The preferred shares will be issued upon approval by the SMC of the increase in SMC's authorized capital stock from P22.5 billion to P30 billion.

As earlier reported, bulk of the proceeds will be used to redeem all of SMC's existing P72.8 billion series 2 preferred shares while the remainder shall be for general corporate purposes, including partial repayment of short-term debt.

In its prospectus, the preferred shares are being sold on the back of the SMC's strengths on the following:

- Direct exposure to the growing Philippine economy;
- Market leading positions in key local industries such as beverages, food, packaging, fuel and oil, energy and infrastructure;
- Experienced management team;
- Operating businesses that provide "sustainable" streams of income and cash flows; and,
- Well-positioned platform for significant future growth.

PH flooding boosts losses among global insurers

By Russel W. Domingo

CALAMITIES in the Philippines, including the damage wrought by Typhoon "Ondoy" in 2009, contributed to the ballooning of global insurance losses due to floods, according to Swiss Re.

The Zurich-based reinsurance group said in a report titled "Flood—an under-informed risk: frequent, inform, insure" that the value of insured properties lost to floods reached $15 billion in 2011 from between $3 billion and $8 billion in 1970.

In an accompanying statement, Swiss Re said that no other natural catastrophe impacts as many people as flooding, with an estimated 300 million people affected every year.

"Recent flood events in Thailand, Australia and the Philippines have shown that floods are now rivaling earthquakes and hurricanes in terms of economic losses," the group said.

Swiss Re classifies floods into the following: flash flood, dam burst, storm surge, tsunami, river flood, torrential rainfall, ice jam (caused by melting ice in the spring), mudflow, lahar and groundwater (seepage from underground).

Jaya Middleton, head of Swiss Re's flood unit and main author of the report, said the $11 billion incurred losses in Thailand last year shows clearly the potential for flood to cause extensive losses.

The insured losses corresponded to 1,800 percent of the country's total annual property premium," Middleton said. "This emphasizes the difficulties the industry faces in creating an economically viable approach to flood insurance."

He added that the insurance losses from the Thailand floods was the identification of "hotspots" or clusters of globally relevant industries in flood-prone regions.

He explained that such hotspots can cause extensive losses because claims are not only increased. Initially, but through interruptions to supply chains and decreased manufacturing productivity internationally.

Because recent flood-related industrial and commercial losses in the Philippines have been comparably small, the country is not considered included among the global hotspots.

Last August, the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association said its initial assessment shows that damage to insured properties caused by the monsoon floods is "a lot less" than the P43 billion recorded in the aftermath of Ondoy three years ago.

In a 1998 report, Swiss Re concluded that flood was "an insurable risk if the principles of insurability were met," and flood insurance has become widely available in many developed countries since then.

"However, key insurance principles were not followed in all cases, and large losses have called into question the ex-

PH FLOODING B3-1

PROJECT & Business Investment BIG Guide

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
LAYOUT BY ENCO-MAE S. ROMOMANILA
ACCOUNT MANAGER: MAE ALVAREZ
Supplements Head Jong Arcasas

Setting the trend for
quality and classy porcelain tableware

Multiple Choice has developed a strong customer base in the PH market by focusing on quality craftsmanship

HAVING fine porcelain ware in the home is one of the nicest components of modern living. Thanks to Multiple Choice Philippines (MCP), Filipino families are now enjoying the privilege of using classy and high-quality tableware through its exclusive distributor, Multiple Choice by Tupchoice.

Ly Garcia, MCP's vice president for sales and marketing, says the company knew what the market was looking for when they started to operate in the country. Moreover, Garcia says the brand proved to be market that consumers get their money's worth when buying their products.

"Our big break" came when Avanzo's awarded us our own area at the Home floor. Then SM followed. Since then, Multiple Choice has become a household name and popular as the trendsetter in tableware," Garcia said.

CASA Grande dinnerset

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Bags from magazines promote empowerment and sustainability

TAG-ALONG Bayong

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TRIPKIT Tampar

DURING her corporate life, Louie Sison was a passionate advocate of innovation, teamwork, giveaways, and passion among her customers. She was savouring every minute of her corporate life until one day she yearned to do something more relevant that would bring a bigger impact to the community.

Sison decided she would engage in community development and environmental sustainability projects. So she former corporate suitors empowering the community and helping Mother Nature to achieve sustainability were the most important issues of the times. "I guess what you are passionate and sincere about, doing something that is right, it just snowballs into something relevant ... and that was how environmentalism and community development became our advocacy," she said.

The story of Sison into the world of environmentalism is the country. Delving inspiration from a bag made of candy wrappers, Sison conceptualized fashionably unique Lifestyle Accessories (BULA) to turn garbage into gold, as to speak. In running bags out of old magazines.

Sison was determined to learn and study the process of weaving. Furthermore, she did long hours doing research and trials.

Eventually, with an eye of the box mindset to learn how to make a bag, she succeeded. Realizing this couldn't be a one-man show, she harnessed the skills of her household to join her in the development of the bags.

"Aside from learning how to weave, I had to study how to evolve the Indio to Italy. One thing I learned was to stress the need to make use of their hands. Since all our products are handmade, there would be no major change in their lifestyle. For example, they could still watch their telenovelas on television or chat with their girlfriends, and earn while doing it. This was much better than placing wages," she said.

Sison's entrepreneurial partnership with her household yielded positive results after her home business partners learned to develop an "out-of-a-bag" mindset.

Productive women

Women empowerment was another major contribution of Sison's advocacy. Through the mentorship of BULA bags, Sison introduced to her women-weaver partners the attitude to unravel their mental and physical abilities so they could be ethically productive and socio-economically conscious.

Aside from empowering their women to uphold their social responsibility to save the earth and to empower the women who make the bags.

"When we started, I lay dressed of the day our bags are displayed in stores. Now you see that our bags in Echo Store Seminia, Manila Hotel in Cebu, Makati Shangri-La, and La Boutique. We plan to create more functional products that are uniquely BULA. We will be releasing to the market our unique picture frames which are perfect as Christmas giveaways."

"One of our major plans is to be able to expand more native materials into functional and fashionable products through the collaboration of companies who want to strengthen their CSR. At the moment, we have four companies who provide us old magazines, label markings, and leather scraps. We also plan to be more visible to the market so we could sustain the ladies who contribute to the production," added Sison.

With the unwavering passion for empowerment and sustainability, there is fervent hope that this is the way to grow.

Visit www.culadesigns.com.—Reported from sms.com.ph

Setting the trend for quality and classy porcelain tableware

Viewpoint B4-4

For more than a decade now, the company has been a mainstay in all branches of Boston plus selected branches of SM. Interestingly, shoppers will also see some designs of the brand in Landmark, Rustans, Market! Market!, and in selected Glorietta stores and Robinsons' Galleria.

Catering to the middle- and high-end market, Loreto says Multiple Choice has developed a strong niche in the Philippine market by being consistent and faithful to quality excellence.

Before Multiple Choice made its debut in the country, the team conducted a comprehensive market study during trade shows to determine the needs of the market.

HOUSE TIN collection

COOKY Mug

MY OWN SHADOW Paint mug

The research indicated that consumers were looking for a "medium cost" with unparalleled ability to evolve new and chic designs while maintaining the image of a high-value product but competitively priced in the tableware industry. Together, the company behind the brand, had an excellent record, having won the Hong Kong Awards Industry 2000 with HKTDC's excellence in export marketing.

According to Loreto, the Multiple Choice by Topchoice trademark stands for modern, quality tableware. Uncomplicated in form and function, its ready product line for tableware includes fine porcelain dinnerware, oven-

FISH Hungry dinnerset

TOP-GUN Spoon

BUNNY Honeybank

SECRET Garden dinnerset

MR. COWBOY Honeybank

MED pig speaker

proof and ceramic, and fine bone china gift-ware, kitchenware, and flatware.

"Our vision is to have a Multiple Choice in every home," says Loreto.

Focus market

On the demographics aspect, Loreto says Multiple Choice has positioned their products to young professionals and mothers because they compose the bulk of the shoppers. Surprisingly, young men are getting to love Multiple Choice too.

Established in 1990, Topchoice Industries started as an ordinary trading firm with expertise in ceramic tableware manufacturing business. The company gradually turned into a marketing entity from, in 1996, it focused its strength in creative design and tableware innovation.

Topchoice created its own creative house called the Bells Design Group to cope up with the ever-changing trend and to venture in original packaging design with added value in the product line.

According to Loreto, the strength and staying power of Multiple Choice is based on the following:

- Marketing-oriented
- Creative design and tableware innovation
- Good quality with impeccable style
- Continuous product development

Visit www.multiplechoice.com.ph.

Reprinted from sms.com.ph

CW Home Depot offers hi-tech security systems

BANKS are not the only places we need to provide high-tech security and building accessories. Imagine stepping into your home and pushing on the touch-screen panel announcing your arrival. The lights turn on, the blinds go up, and even the air-conditioning starts adjusting to the desired temperature. Sounds like a futuristic scene from a sci-fi movie? One doesn't have to watch the movies many days to see this type of set-ups. These days, more and more homes are "switching" to automation for their basic and essential home features. Thanks to the advent of high-tech home equipment and inventions, the future that was once only achieved through television or movie special effects, is here now. Nowadays, consumers have indispensable aid for home security. CW Home Depot showcases several special security companies that can offer some of the best electronic security systems in the market today.

JUST like a command center from a spy movie, CCTV monitoring systems give you a big brother's perspective on your home and property.

Adlib International

This company hails from its roots from a large conglomerate dealing with electronic equipment and electrical devices. Aside from providing security and surveillance systems to homeowners, it has extensive dealings with large institutions with particular security needs. From automated gate systems, to CCTV surveillance systems to intelligent building support systems, Adlib is a one-stop solution for industrial, residential and commercial security needs.

Doortech System

Founded by Dr. Joshua Go, he says that their product is not only for the very rich. "We have clients from Sampaloc to Ayala, Alabang," he quips. He says that the common denominator among them is that they all believe in investing wisely for their safety and convenience. His company specializes in access control systems and he succinctly laments what he's talking about goes to the fact that he started this business because of his own personal need to have an automated door and gate system for his own home. It works simply, too. Coming home in your car, you are equipped with a remote control system that allows you to open and close the gate behind you without alighting from your vehicle, or without bothering anyone with the hook of your horn. That comes in handy during heavy downpour, or when you live in a quiet neighborhood and have to come home in the middle of the night.

Faire Technologies

Faire Technologies, Inc. is a security system integrator and provider of a wide array of high quality, and reliable electronic security products and fire alarm applications. Its products are used in retail, commercial, industrial and government centers to deter theft and crimes, as well as, to protect people, property and information. It provides homeowners and private organizations with cost-effective solutions to their security requirements through security automation.

LOSS PREVENTION

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CW home depot ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

PUBLIC SAVINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

for Flood-Affected Customers

To our dear valued CW Home Depot Customers,

A large area of Metro Manila and its nearby provinces has been recently impaired by flood caused by the southwest monsoon locally known as the "Habagat", resulting in massive damages to houses and businesses. CW Home Depot has come up a way of extending help to homeowners and business owners by having a one week sale which will commence on September 10 to September 16, 2012. We are giving a minimum of

10% DISCOUNT ON ALL ITEMS & UP TO 50% DISCOUNT ON SELECTED ITEMS

Aside our expansive DIY Superstore, Home Interior Superstore and Home Appliance Superstore for cash and carry transactions. Aside from cash purchases, we are extending the same discount also to straight credit card payments (zero percent installment card payments are excluded). The discount cannot be applied in conjunction with any other existing promo-discount.

This is our way of helping the communities where CW Home Depot is located in to ensure its homeowners get the best savings in doing their home repairs in these difficult times.

For more information visit our website on

www.cwhomedepot.com

Alabang · Balintawak · Las Piñas · Makati · Manila Bay · Ortigas · Pampanga

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Green Meadows

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One of the country's prime real estate brands has once again come to test the waters in its attempt to introduce new ways of living to a Filipino province. In their recent attempt, Sta. Lucia Realty & Development, Inc. (SLRDI) approach comes from a more literal perspective.

Known for its penchant for breaking new grounds, the company has begun constructing a 5-hectare lake and joined the municipality of Pavia and the district of Jaro to create a unique community in the province of Iloilo. The project was named Green Meadows.

Spearheaded by SLRDI as the developer and AFP Retirement and Separation Benefit System as the landowner, Green Meadows is the first lake community in Iloilo. A sprawling development of 80 hectares filled with luxurious features, this new development offers an ambitious and alluring lifestyle for its residents.

The main feature of Green Meadows is the Lake Victoria. It offers an exciting way of life for homeowners. Residents of Green Meadows will be given the opportunity to experience numerous water-related activities such as kayaking, jet skiing, boating and fishing. The Paradise Island, which is located at the heart of the lake, offers sophisticated touch of luxury with its recreational pool.

Stretching within Barangay Tacas, Jaro and Barangay Ungka, Pavia, Green Meadows also allows easy access to different parts of Iloilo as it is located along the main road leading to the city. Its location is perfectly situated for the convenience of residents who wish to visit shopping centers like SM City Iloilo and SM Supermarket at Jaro, educational facilities like the University of San Agustin, Central Philippine University, Angelicum School and University of the Philippines Visayas, medical facilities such as Iloilo St. Paul's Hospital and Iloilo Doctors Hospital, and other important locations such as the New Iloilo Airport. Following the creation of its new bridge, Green Meadows greatly reduces the travel time for residents.

The recently completed Jaro floodway located around the property also makes this prime development completely flood-free. As for its amenities, the community is fully equipped with up-to-date features that complete the full package most Sta. Lucia developments offer.

Green Meadows offers lot sizes averaging 150 square meters, with average total contract price of Php 645,000 at Php 4,300 per square meters. Aside from the exquisite features that Green Meadows offers, Sta. Lucia also offers the most convenient payment terms with the lowest monthly amortization of Php 4,500. Potential homeowners and investors can also choose from different types of lots according to location such as Lakeview, Commercial, Lakefront, the Palms and the Groves.

Once again, Sta. Lucia's efforts bring a new way of life to another Filipino province. With the recent developments to a promising project, Green Meadows draws closer to fulfilling its tagline that invites people to "come home to Iloilo's first lake community."

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

BenCab with his nudes and erotica

Gallery Big's collection of nudes by the National Artist will be on view at the Makati Shangri-La

BENCAB by his work, in the Erotica Gallery

By Johnathan Liburan Nordina
Contributor

TUCKED IN the BenCab Museum (Asin Road in Tuba, Benguet, 13 minutes from Baguio City), on a quiet corner one level below the building's main entrance, is a small room, not more than 30 sq m, quite nondescript from the outside but for the cautionary sign on the door warning visitors of its contents. "This may be offensive to minors and certain individuals."

This is the Erotica Gallery, one of eight galleries in the Museum's collection, although much smaller than other galleries, it has become the museum's most popular attraction, for obvious reasons.

"They laugh, they get shocked in a way because they've not used to this," National Artist Benedicto Cabrera, or BenCab, says. "Nowadays, kids can easily access pornography on the Internet but here they are unwillingly portrayed as art."

On exhibit are BenCab's painting of female nudes, a three-dimensional terra-cotta piece by Jude Utzib that can be seen either as a flower or an oversized vagina, or both, and a few Casiklima wood carvings depict-

BENCAB 12

BenCab with his nudes and erotica

From page C1

ing couples in various acts of coitus.

At the center of the space is a new sculpture, a long hardwood bench sculpted in the form of a male figure complete with a well-defined dancer/ phallus, supposedly used in the highlands of old as a lying bench for lust rolls.

The Erotica Gallery is a humble counterpart of, say, Amsterdam's more-than Sex Museum, but given the Filipino culture, it's likely to make more than a few faces blush. As such, the gallery becomes a spatial barometer of attitudes about sexuality, values that are at once conflicting and evolving.

In this space, art confounds, enlightens and instructs. Here, in his museum, BenCab is provocateur, philosopher and guru.

Art and nudity

At the Erotic Gallery, BenCab ushers me to come closer to one of his nude paintings...one of a woman in the act of undressing, her arms crossed over her head concealing her face, as the robes off her torso, revealing her belly and a singular breast.

"Here," he says, pointing at a barely visible stroke of textured cotton on the woman's stomach that renders the composition more vividly sensual. "Besides lying 'pun. I don't think I can do that again."

This is a humble confession of forty.

"My nudes," he explains, "are things I do between my larger pieces. I love doing them because I'm most relaxed when I dance from life. The subject is already there before me and I don't have to think too much."

"SAMO."

In 1966, BenCab, with Tim Neuby, Dang Bawe and R.R. Domingo, shaped the country's first exhibit of nudes. The show received a negative review from a popular female columnist who found the works devoid of sensual value.

"If it's work had only three lines," BenCab remembers, laughing.

In the interviews of his own nudes, BenCab has, over the years, found the necessary respite from the demands that are often staged upon artists of his stature. He relishes these periods of engagements with the nude form and in the reliance calm of rendering the body erotic. He breaks a temperament that is, in equal parts, rare, hateful, emotional and cumulative.

"FEMALE Form" 2, right: Erotica Gallery

Gallery Big

This temperament is much evident in the pieces that make up the collection of the Makati-based Gallery Big, on view on a recently renovated floor at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Sept. 14.

In this private collection, BenCab's nudes are rendered not with the hyper-masculine bravado that defines Filipino machismo, but with an almost reverential disposition toward the power of the female form.

The allure emanates from the fantasy of possibilities evoked by the imagery explored, multiplied in the nudes of the subconscious, but pieces only for its perpetual non-actualization.

"SOFTNESS"

He gives his nude subjects the subtle power to ignore and rebuke, to nullify the voyeuristic gaze, for instance, in the depiction of self-gratification. The models never really look back, but in the moment of unchecking, rest or ecstasy pleasure.

Lines sweep through BenCab's compositions, as though charting organic terrain, to become erotic whether and not never surprised fragments retained to pertinent significance.

The viewer becomes framed as the movement of curves that undulates rhythmically to front and under limbs, breasts, and buttocks shaping them into the contours of our fantasies, made real if only at the level of the visceral.

He causes these, too, and in this act of identification conjures storied subjects clothed with untold narratives, begging to be discovered.

Septuagenarian maestro

BenCab's universe manifest a dynamic energy that many artists half his age would be hard-pressed to duplicate. At 70, he is blessed with the gift of hindsight, grateful for the success that has come his way but mindful of the hunger driving the mind.

Somewhere in BenCab's verdant garden, in an area off limits to the public, lies a waterfall he didn't know was there years ago when he bought the property one parcel of land at a time. Today its motion quite even stronger cascading to the river down below. Like, it seems, has more surprises waiting in the wings for BenCab.

Gallery Big's collection of BenCab nudes will be on view in the invitational show "Sensual Allure Redux." It opens on Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., at the Manila Room (Bina Entrance) of the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. Call 8607755, 8922 3451 (Ext).

Visit www.benCabmuseum.org.

The author is an assistant professor of the Arts & Science Faculty of St. Scholastica's College in Manila where he teaches courses in journalism, film and criticism. He is also a senior lecturer at the UP College of Mass Communication. E-mail: markvenzon@gmail.com

"X CRACK in the Wall," by Ronald Ventura

Ronald Ventura painting graces ManilArt 2012

"X CRACK in the Wall" by Ronald Ventura is the banner piece for the 2012 ManilArt, Oct. 3-6, in the SMX, Pasay.

It is presented by the Bonifacio Art Galleries Organization, Magic and supported by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Now in its fourth year, it gathers 40 of the top art gal-

leries nationwide representing over 100 artists.

The five-day exposition seeks to be a destination art event in Asia showcasing the best the Philippine visual arts some has to offer, including some of the most sought-after Filipino artists like Ronald Ventura who developed an international following in recent years.

Visit www.manilart.com.

Neurologists brainstorm ...

From page C1

An outstanding follow-up to his research came in 2001 when doctor scientist Torsten Wiesel and David Hubel were awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for exploring what they referred to as "the visual system."

Their study was anchored on the neural movement that comes in the complex mechanism that is the mind which in process visual input and translates it into something relevant and relatable for the individual, showing its capacity to integrate emotions and memories in the physical environment.

Although there is a common misconception that we are only using the barely tangible inner cells, their neurological aspects work hand in hand as visual input-visual output progression is what leads to necessary human activities such as art appreciation and critique.

"They might not be vital for survival and may seem too excessive (the scientists), but there are qualities of the brain that make us more human," said Dr. Jaewon Hong, chief of MMC's Neurology Section.

Dong said there are very few researches in the country that tackle the neurological basis of art. It is through fundraising events such as the exhibit that the Neurology section of MMC is able to raise interest on the need for more studies in neurology.

As part of the exhibit's program, Dong will give a talk on the various components of degenerative brain conditions and their correlation to a person's level of artistry on Sept. 16, 3 p.m., MMC.

The exhibit will run until Sept. 30.

Gaerlan, a sculptor who has established his niche in surreal works, studied industrial engineering at the University of the Philippines. Abstractionist Orsal and realist Tamayo graduated from the University of Santo Tomas with Fine Art degrees in painting.

Call 0000000.

"INTERCONNECTED," by Wilmar Orsal

"MANDA," by Orville Tiamson

"Ciudad Linea Paradiso," by Ferdinand Cacnio

"SUMAY Kaya D'yan," by Tiamson

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Who first wears

"SHADACED" and "Visual Sign," by Nilmar Onal

Neurologists brainstorm link between brain and the visual arts

Makati Medical Center will mount an exhibit of works by Cacnio, Onal and Tiamson to raise funds for neurological research

By Alyssha J. Robillo
Crash Bridge

THE BRAIN is the human genius in the visual process. It is where images pass through in the dynamics of perception. Other people make reference to the visual brain, and we, pure consider creativity and art-making as among the earliest and most natural of brain operations.

The Makati Medical Center's (MMC) Brain Foundation and Neurology Section bring the creative and medical fields together in "The Brain and the Arts: A Celebration of Life," a group exhibit featuring the works of Ferdinand Cacnio, Nilmar Onal and Cecille Tiamson.

"The show is a neuroscience collaboration between the doctors and the artists," said project director Lydia Nobla.

Conceptualized by MMC's team of neurologists, the exhibit fulfills the doctors' vision to open the behavioral aspects of neurology to the public and to link their profession to art, a passion for which is shunted by the physician themselves.

"Then neurologists are artists them selves some are musicians, others paint. They're into the arts and [the visual aspect of art is easier to express, to show," Nobla said.

The project supports the doctors' advocacy to celebrate deeper public understanding of neurology and neuroscience.

It was in the early 1950s that Hubel and Wiesel further ignited interest in the detailed workings of how visual input travels to the visual cortex. Starting later was the Nobel Prize in...

NEUROSCIENTIS C3

"DANSEUR," by Ferdinand Cacnio

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Today's consumers are increasingly looking for ways to improve health and wellness through their food, beverage or dietary supplement buying.

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With thousands of premixes produced each year at our state-of-the-art facilities around the globe you can turn to find a Quali® product or a customized shelf premix. For example, all Cubes Energy Drink premixes contain DSM Quali® Blends ensuring world-class quality and nutrition is never in doubt. So the next time you need "take on energy" for extra-ordinary physical and mental performance, grab a Cubes Energy Drink and get power packed with Taurine, Inositol, Vitamin C, Niacin and B complex [vitamins] B, B12, B6, &B.

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We find ways

Wataru Sakuma recasts 'Maps' of Metro Manila into conceptual art

By Margo C. Enriquez
Correspondent

KNOWN FOR HIS intricate origami sculpture, Japanese designer Wataru Sakuma has lately explored "cartographic design." He has become interested in maps' value as conceptual artwork.

In his first exhibit, "Map" at Art in Island, he uses newspaper pulp to make maps of the Metro Manila area.

Sakuma said the idea was born out of a childhood fascination with maps and explorations. "As a child, I would go to different towns to explore. It was a great adventure."

"Maps have played a powerful role in history," he said. They signify territorial domination and have also been the cause of territorial disputes, he added.

Living in the Philippines for eight years as a designer for Mina Ecological Development, Inc. (Mineco), a Japanese pulp- and forest-products company in Tagaytay, he takes the map in the local context.

"I've been fascinated with the roots and the construction of lines," he said, adding how those maps could be reorganized for the eye of the beholder.

Sakuma considers Metro Manila and its disorderly intricate paper collages, revealing the disorder of metropolis. They are layers of lines, geometrically cut fields, constructing roadways and districts rendered as redacted abstractions.

Asked why he used newspapers instead of his usual materials of mulberry, pineapple, banana and a Japanese plant called kozo, Sakuma replied: "Newspapers transmit information and they also record history. Like maps, they tell you where to go or lead you to our destiny."

He explained that ever since he came to the Philippines, he saw the dramatic changes in the landscape as tall buildings were erected and more roads were constructed. "I wanted to capture the moment."

Newspaper was essential to its original form of pulp during the process, he said. He drew on it by making a 4 m x 4 m map of Manila. He added more water to loosen the drawings to create the washes. The biggest challenge was getting the precise details of the sub-towns.

Some artworks are composed of three layers of prints. A mirror is placed below some of the maps as a metaphor for the viewers to look at the self and his direction in life.

"Every city is different. If I did maps in Tokyo, I would get different results," he said.

Born in Japan, Sakuma studied at the Musashino College of Fine Arts and at the New York Studio Program, affiliated with Parsons School of Design. While working on a project, he discovered the possibility of paper by recycling it as cotton and transforming it into new shapes.

After school, he Googled for a job opening and came across an advertisement for Mineco, which specializes in wall decor and lighting products for the (environmental) market.

He became well known on the local design scene for his cutting-edge lighting fixtures in the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions' Manila FAME shows and has earned a niche in the Hall of Fame of the Gawad Buhay awards.

Exhibit runs until Sept. 17. Art Island is at 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City; tel. 632-7255578; 0918-8950868.

"MAP of Pasay City"

THE MIRROR beneath the maps collage makes the artwork metaphorical.

VISUAL ARTS

"IN HER Nature," by Dianne Ty

"QUEEN of the Hebrews," by Dave Lock

"BLACK Series," by A. Barrioquinto

Barrioquinto et al. at West

Andrew Barrioquinto's "Black Days" paintings are rendered in emotional brush strokes and covered in deep, thick blotches of paint. He abandons the aesthetic rules of proportions in dialogue here.

Dexter Ty's "8 Things went Pretty" focuses on the oddity of things: twin portraits of dead people merge with red droppings and gold-etched drawings of delicate objects.

Ivy Consocol's "Light Come" consists of drawings enclosed in a box that reflects an inner light, giving the drawings a lantern-like effect.

Dave Lock's "The Life Cycle of Pasay Fairies" consists of mock portraiture of icons of beauty such as Gloria Diaz and Marilyn Monroe.

The exhibits are on view until Sept. 17 at West Gallery (4th West Ave., QC; tel. 411-9330 or 411-9331; www.westgallery.org).

Group exhibit at Arnea

"Black Art about Art" group show opens Sept. 13, 6 p.m., in Galeria Arnea (The Atrium, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Ortigas, Mandaluyong). It stars solid Black JR. Peer brand artists are Kirby Bravo, Eric Cuenca, Brian Bulos, Ruffy Mesias, Ben Pinatoso, Carmelino Avasola, Wade Kinkar, Jericho Mulawin, Michelle Lua, Lolo Reyes, Jenky Garcia, Patrick Hernandez, Jojit Solano, Basil de Guzman, Marvin Pimentel, Art Sanchez, Mael de Guzman, Brad Zambrano, Oscar Arro, Gumapac Man, Cathy Bernabe and Lolo Villareal.

Bohol artists at Renaissance

Bohol artists are featured in "Bohol Bohol," to run until Sept. 15 in Renaissance Gallery (4/F, SM Megamall Bldg. A, Mandaluyong; tel. 6339397).

The exhibit aims to highlight the beauty and wonder of Bohol through paintings, mixed media and sculptural pieces. Participating artists are Oscar Montano, Eric Cabili, Boy Cardadilla, Bimi Lumasdan, Ariel Obon Ballot, Jhecky Curambao, Joey Lumontod, Jef Solcron, Jonathan Montano, Lilio Bautista, Nonie Lungay, Rhodis Bonachita, Ric Ramacela, Dino Tompong, Rommel Montano and Dale Pinatas.

"SILBY Crawl," by Tony Twigg

Twigg at Duemila

"Silver Gathering" features sculptures and drawings by Tony Twigg. It opened Sept. 8 in Gallery Duemila and runs until Oct. 2.

Twigg takes a different path—one as abstracted as the ancient flight, distant, symbiotic, familiar and unchanting. Stepping from elegant conversations in black and white to primary colors, Twigg's painted constructions move between a controlled drawn mark and the private expression that is a Filipino experience.

Gozum's Artistiko Gallery

Multi-awarded artist-photojournalist Rahyel "Boy" Ramos Gozum at his just-up-his-own-atelier, the Artistiko Gallery Workshop Studio, With Gozum at: Artistiko are Makinen Arriola Benedicto Cabrera, Napoleon Abueva and Abdul Imao, former Sec. Heherson T. Alvarez, international artist Jamal Gozum Sassy Daiwa, and Jess Varela.

"LIFE Without Charlie" (L,R)

Toti Cerda pays tribute to Charlie Chaplin in new series

IN THE 50th century, no person appreciated laughter and joy as much as the late film actor Charlie Chaplin. His silent film comedies toward the end of World War I reminded the world of its humanity in the midst of cynical French warfare.

Chaplin and his characters, particularly his Tramp persona, remain great fodder for artists seeking to juxtapose his sense of hope with the vacuum created by his loss.

These nuances become even more compelling when examined from a surrealist perspective, and it is from this angle that Impressionist Toti Cerda re-examines him in his latest exhibition at 371 Art Space, "Life Without Charlie," opening on Sept. 13, and running until Sept. 15.

Cerda is well-known for his use of pop-culture icons in hyper-realist style within surrealist settings. The scenes he paints are all from familiar Chaplin films, but the artist depicts a world without laughter; a world where fun is obscured, in other words, a world without Chaplin, is unprecedented. There is an undeniable edginess coupled with raw emotion to each and every painting in the exhibit.

His "M" composition for the exhibit, for instance, has Chaplin himself as if hooked down by his head him, but the figuration is incomplete from the neck down, in its place we have an outline of the artist's body as if scratched on an orange background, with textured gray lines spelling out the words "life without Charlie."

Cerda is a Rizal Award artist who studied painting at the Technological University of the Philippines. He worked in a draftsman at the Ranan Textile at Sweet Plant before starting to a short career as a cartoonist and illustrator.

He is a multi-awarded artist, having won awards from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Art Association of the Philippines. He has been inducted in Gallery Genesis' Kalay sa Taling Hall of Fame; a distinction he shares with of Manuel Baldemor, Anastacia Jose and Igan Hernandez.

He has had solo one exhibition to Singapore.

To be shown concurrently with "Life Without Charlie" is "Icons," featuring the smaller works of Amador Bengzon, Jose Bellido, Dominador Lacuna, Cleto Caguioa, Reyben Ramos, Nicholas Manalo, Amanda Lopez, Dominique Allenas, Xander Angeles, Tricia Aris and Vincent de Pio.

The 371 Art Space is along 8 Guevarra Street, San Juan, Metro Manila. Call 7278182; e-mail info@371artspace.com; visit www.371artspace.com.

"LIFE Without Charlie" XVI, XVII

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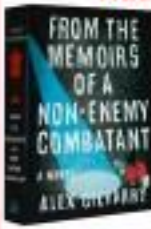

New York-based Filipino writer Alex Gilvarry, author of *From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant* is coming to Manila for a talk and book signing on September 10, 4 pm at Fullerbooks, Greenbelt 4.

Gilvarry is the founding editor of the Turtleneck Books, a book series collaborative efforts, and has written for National Public Radio's All Things Considered, Vogue, The Paris Review and other publications. He has been named a Norman Mailer Fellow.

His debut novel *From the Memoirs of a Non-enemy Combatant* received positive revie s from The Ne York Times, The Boston Globe and Glamour Magazine among others. It tells the story of Bayet, a fashion graduate in the Philippines. He is full of dreams Then he arrives in Ne York in 2002 but on the brink of pains and tortures, the flamboyant ex-Catholic is s ept to America's most notorious prison and locked a ay indefinitely to discover his link to a terrorist plot.

From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant is available for P985 in National Book Store, Fe erbooks and Booksellers branches. Shop online at nationalbookstore.com. Follo National Book Store on Facebook and T itter for exclusive offers and contests.

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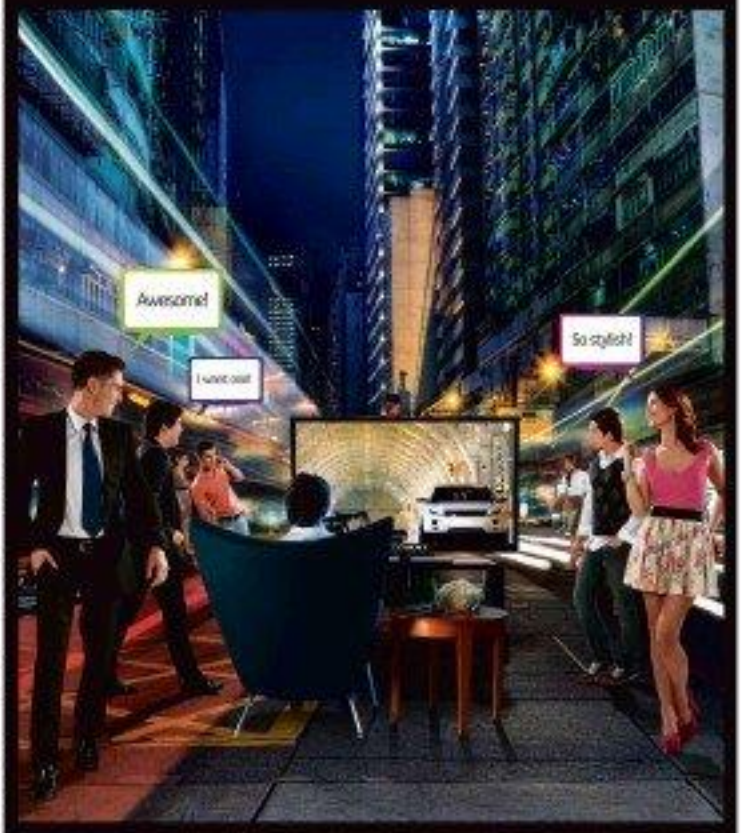

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Ballet Philippines explores magical talismans in 'Anting,' opens Sept. 14

By Walter Ang
Contributor

BALLET PHILIPPINES stages "Anting" for its "Neo-Filipino" series this September. The series features new works by Filipino choreographers and allows them a venue to tackle issues and experiment with form and choreography.

"Anting' explores the world of talismans and amulets of Filipino magical traditions," says BP artistic director Paul Morales. "It's made up for four separate movements, each depicting a specific kind of amulet and its powers."

The libretto is by playwright Tony Perez, also known as the author of a series of books on how to cast spells and perform Wiccan rituals. He is also popularly known as the founder of Spirit Question, a group of psychics who "communicate with earthbound human spirits and elementals."

'Magick'

Perez explains that anting is the street term for anting-anting (talisman). "Sending" involves an indigenous Philippine magickal (sic) system practiced from the time of the Kaingin era to the present day."

He notes, however, that Filipinos have been practicing these forms of "magick" since the pre-Hispanic era. "The mumbaki in the North and the babaylans in the South, to whose ceremonies [prayers] were composed and distributed during the Spanish colonial period; to the mentioned practices of faith healers in the Cordillera; more than 300 existing rules on Muslim Basulans; and the numerous groups and individual practitioners—until—the present time."

The production will include projections of images of amulets, cloth with magickal patterns and sessions drums on and used by albularyos (rural medicine men); medicines, brass and copper medallions; and writing-anting from Perez's personal collection, featuring the photographs of Hedwig de Leon and video art of Andee Cantagan.

MORE STORY ON

TONY Perez (middle) with Paul Morales and Hedwig de Leon, whose photos of Perez's collection of amulets and talismans will be on display
VICTOR ANSIA

LEE Kibeom and Song Dongwoon (right) of top K-Pop band Beast during Manila concert

ABS-CBN Philharmonic pays homage to the musical genius of John Williams

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

JOHN WILLIAMS, the titan of film music, was royally honored with a concert by ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra at Meralco Theater.

"The Magic of John Williams" paid tribute to the musical genius who won the Oscar for music scoring five times, the British Academy of Films and Television Arts award seven times, Golden Globe four, and the Grammy 21.

He was also the conductor of the well-loved Boston Pops Orchestra.

The concert was an epic symphonic of the music for the movies mainly helmed by acclaim-maker, Steven Spielberg.

Williams (born 1932) has collaborated with the director pioneer in the "Harry Potter" films, "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "E.T.," "Schindler's List," "Superman," "Jaws," "Jurassic Park" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

The ABS-CBN Orchestra also played Williams' scores for the 1984 Olympics and NBC Night News.

Wide wind section

The concert also trained the spotlight on the collaboration between young conductor Gerard Salonga and the newly constituted orchestra.

"Fantastic—never has this thing happened for a symphonic orchestra," said Salonga in between on top, revealing the backbone for the entire ensemble.

Whenever parts of the piano and the harp were audibly appreciated as they added color to the entire symphonic sound.

Perhaps to showcase such talent, Salonga demanded the positions and left the wonderful section in plus area audience to "Hombre 2000" ("Harry Potter"). The band played with agility and commanding presence.

'Superman' applauded

In "Superman," the brasses played splendidly. Salonga was met with thunderous applause when he faced the audience and in a Superman T-shirt under his coat.

Characters from some of the featured films such as, #42-01, Superman, White Soldiers, and Indiana Jones mixed with the audience at the lobby.

At "Star Wars" encore, the trumpet must more connect the theme with each clan.

One commends Salonga and the orchestra for their collective musicality: the semblance for his proficient handling of the brass; and the musicians for their technical ability. It was such a fantastic symphonic sound the orchestra echoed that underscored an allayed musicality.

Salonga is no stranger to Williams' music. He proved basic familiarity with it as he brought out the essence of Williams' music in lush and brilliant semantics.

José Mari Chan and 'Silent Night' were the featured vocalists. They sampled a duet to "If I Were in Love," from "Yes, Giorgio."

Gil later did a solo, the very popular "Can You Read My Mind?" from "Superman."

In one poem to Salonga's instruction, he told the audience that Williams' music provided him access to the classical world of, for instance, Bruckner and Wagner.

When Salonga said to hand to daguan, 'Popular music, in general, is a crowd by the classics.' Many of the Star Alliyn's songs were based on classical tunes.

Williams is successful because of his ability to echo Singapore's show of harmonic or the underlying idea that is identified with a character.

Examples: the theme of "Jaws" that is based only on two notes expressed in ghastly elephants undulations. Or the actual, eerie sound associated with "E.T.", or the touching, somber tones of the violin solo elegantly played by concert master Rudyard Taylan to evoke a tragic scene in "Schindler's List."

Catch ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra's inaugural Gala at Mandaluyong Cultural Hotel on Sept. 9. Call tel. (0915-8686)/(02) 3866732; e-mail abspfall@amail.com; visit www.abscbnphilharmonic.com.

JOHN Williams.

NIKKI Gil and Jose Mari Chan on the a duo.

NCCA Hymn to be unveiled for arts agency's 25th year

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) has lined up a full repertoire of activities on Sept. 14 in the celebration of its 25th anniversary.

Opening at the NCCA Building is the museum at 2 p.m. is the exhibit, "Tagalong ng Pilak." Also opening is "Luminus," an exhibit of portraits of past NCCA chairs and executive directors. They will also be honored for their contributions to the arts and culture.

The NCCA Hymn will also be launched, with lyrics by National Artist Bienvenido Nepales Lumbera and music by NCCA chair Felipe M. de Leon Jr.

Ballet Philippines explores...

From page D1

Movements

"Tawag, Wala Pang Wanda," is a creation story that traces the origins of the Diwa Infinito on Baro and Aklan. "The second section is about the movement, establishing supremacy over others, escape from situation of danger, and ordinariness of marvelling," he says.

In "Sinsilio Insulibusis," a calado comes to life and showcases the syncretic images of the Blessed Virgin Mary "Nuestra Señora Asia, the Immaculate Conception, Maria, ang Reyna Mapagpanalo, and Birenia, La Virgin Milagrosa."

"Ring ng Alitaptap" shows the legend of the origin of the body sounds in the disorders of Alitaptap and Insam in Batangas. "Ring ng Alitaptap talismans are made from pieces of wood from the ornaments are worn as pendants for protection, power, success, and love. "Thickness of the talismans are in gold, silver, copper and/or brass. Thousands of 'ring ng alitaptap' have circulated over the years, so that it's difficult to determine which are authentic and which are not."

"Hatong Bukid" is about a renegade member of the cult of Hatong Bukid, a group that originated in Mindanao and was heavily influenced by the ornamental rituals and movements of the area's ethnic groups. "The group is known to have its own distinct idioms and structures, and are most widely known for their training to be unaffected by blows dealt with bladed weapons."

Process

Unlike his involvements in plays in which he attends rehearsals to revise scripts based on actors' speech patterns, when it comes to dance, "I always give direction and choreographers the freedom and the creative space they need to bring the works to life on stage."

Each movement will have its own choreographer: Morales: BP associate artistic director Christine Crame; BP alumnus and I Dance Theatre artistic director Gerald Mercado; and Artdance artistic director Ron Villanueva Ong.

They will work with the music of Jed Balsamo, Arnold Tang, Teresa Barrozo and Jerrod Rodriguez.

Set design by Zard Egana; costume design by Dennis Marciano; and lighting design by Jonjon Villareal.

"Neo-Filipino dining" has no performances at the CCP Little Theater Sept. 14, 7:30/8:45 p.m.; Sept. 15, 2 and 6 p.m.; Sept. 16, 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are at P600 (matinee) and P1,200 (evening shows). Student and senior citizen discounts apply. For tickets, call Ballet Philippines at tel. 5511980, or Ticketworld at tel. 8170000. Visit www.ballet.ph.

'The King and I'...

From page D4

mental endurance of that time period."

Having started off as a dancer, Salvatore also incorporates her experience with body movement into her works. "As a costume designer, you always have to think about the actors and the way the costumes are going to flow around with their movements, and choose the right material for maximum stage effect and best comfort for the artists."

With the participation of Philippine Ballet Theater and Manila Ballet Senior Orchestra; musical direction by Rudell Colmenar; vocal direction by Lynn Estella; sound design by Rudy Carpanzano; design by Jo Tenorio; and lighting design by John Batcalla.

"King and I" opens Sept. 15 at Newport Performing Arts Theater, Resorts World Manila, Pasay City. Call tel. 8396333 or visit www.tamarindo.com.

Venezuela's El Sistema is the inspiration of TV network's orchestra

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

IT WAS 99-YEAR General Salonga was playing in a corporate show for the First Philippine Holdings' (FPH) 50th anniversary that he learned of the plan of ABS-CBN to establish a symphony orchestra.

The then FPH chair Federico Lopez, the son of Lopez patriarch Don Lopez, who started out to be a musicianist himself.

"He started talking about my orchestra (Philharmonika) which at that time had already disbanded. I was searching for funding sources for the orchestra. I was quite amazed at how much Mr. Lopez knew. I think he clicked on the subject of the musicians of Venezuela, and the miracle there that is El Sistema."

The man behind the latter-but-heard of El Sistema, it is a state foundation which teaches free Venezuela's (El) youth orchestras and the institutional training programs which make them possible. It supports 33 symphony orchestras involving 315,000-370,000 children attending its music schools.

The most notable thing about it is that some 70-80 percent of the students come from the poor.

Award-winning dance

"Never a Lonely" (Play and Night), a 2004 documentary on 13 dancers, won several awards, including Best Documentary at the 2005 One Lee American International Film Festival and Cine Africaspectre Latino Film Festival.

The 2008 documentary "El Sistema," by Paul Smaczny and Maria Stodtmeier, won Best Documentary Feature award at the Chicago International Movies and Music Festival in 2010, and Best Documentary at the Orbis du Hispano Film Festival in 2009.

Salonga said Lopez even gave him a copy of the latest El Sistema book and DVD. Later, they had informal dinner that turned into afternoon meetings with Chancellor Cuenco and Gabby Lopez in the FPH boardroom.

"Later I gave a little former presentation and spoke from my heart," Salonga said. "In that meeting, it was confirmed that ABS-CBN had already been thinking about forming its own orchestra. Mr. Cuenco asked Mickey Shahan (formerly head of ABS-CBN special projects) to work with me to explore this thing more.

"After going back and forth with Mickey via Skype, and e-mail, I gave me one of the most amazing phone calls of my life when he said we got the green light.

"The green light had also been given for the formation of a youth orchestra and training program modeled on Venezuela's El Sistema."

The good news is that the orchestra will not be limited to corporate work with the network and its sister company, Star Cinema.

"We aim to bring live orchestral performance closer to the Filipinos and give them an option of what to listen to," Salonga said.

Huge influence

Salonga marveled at the huge influence of the TV network and said the ABS-CBN Philharmonic was a boost to classical music.

"Everyone here knows the result of ABS-CBN," he said. "Think about it, how many times would we have to fill up a concert hall to be seen by the same numbers of people who'd see us on our TV appearances? The power of this network to make this orchestra known to people is something I'm still trying to fathom."

Salonga said the network had approved his outreach programs that would give back kids and adults a chance to experience a medium not easily accessible to all.

What is in store for the newly assembled musicians in this new orchestra?

For one, stages for the musicians are decent, and, second, the orchestra has been given a very good rehearsal space: Bulwagan Tanyag at the ABS-CBN compound.

"The acoustics of Delphy Theater was designed by Mike Fedora, and it has that sweet stage feel to it, and, at the same time, it is perfect for rehearsal, not too reverberant," said Salonga.

"One of the goals is to not have rehearsals that are not directly aimed at a specific performing event. The result? Less concentration is higher," the conductor added.

Salonga said he had learned from working with Cecile Licad.

"I learned to go with the flow, and that you can't force a leaf to fall from a tree in the manner, tempo and intensity in a way other than the way it just wants to fall," he said. "And the lessons I learned from her is that music has to come from inside. The last thing is influences in the way I listen to music, the way I perceive it, and the way I perform it. I'll never be able to repay her for that, not even in emotion all the encouragement and support she has given me."

PPO opens season with 'expressive' music

Text and photos
by Antonio Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE VENERABLE Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO), a resident company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, kicks off the celebration of its 60th anniversary next year with a 2012-2013 concert season that opens on Sept. 21. Works to be played include Ode to Joy, the 19th century (Handel) to the 21st century (Schedrin).

This was announced at a recent press conference at the CCP among those who spoke were CCP president Raul Sunico; CCP vice president Orlo Militante and Olivier Ochanine, the PPO's popular and personable music director.

During the press con, the PPO String Quintet led by concertmaster Yasunobu Hara performed Mozart's well-loved "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik."

The opening concert will be held at the Philamlife Auditorium in Manila. Succeeding concerts (Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 14, Feb. 22, March 22 and April 19) will be staged at the CCP.

On Sept. 21, Ochanine conducts Shostakovich's Suite for Variety Orchestra, Strauss's "Kaiserwalzer" Suite, and Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances.

Speaking of this season's works, with a reference to last season's "The Rite of Spring" by Stravinsky, Ochanine said, "Music is not always beautiful and many last evening, expressive, violent [Stravinsky] ... it is of this to it [Shostakovich], relationship with government, a lot of undercurrents."

He added: "Audiences are growing younger. The Filipino audience wants to learn, to expand [their knowledge]. The numbers are growing, slowly, surely."

Militante said evidence to PPO members: "They have a multi-dimensional characters. They are not just musicians; they also teach. They are leaders in their own communities. Most of them have launched a program supporting young musicians, and have performed in underprivileged and underserved areas like Tarlac City, Davao del Norte, and [the Philippine General Hospital]."

For the first time in a PPO press con, some of the musicians present were called upon to talk about their experiences with the orchestra.

Violinist Jorge Salvahan said he played for two years in a cruise ship which toured Europe, the Caribbean, Alaska and Hawaii.

"My salary was six times when I came with the PPO," he revealed. "But after a while it became boring. I felt my classical training was being thrown away; my fingers were rusted." Enough is enough. So I went back to the PPO."

Cellist Ms. Victoria Molina-Chang said, "the PPO has been my home for 34 years and it is not boring because every concert is different."

Young Joana Faith Licuden, assistant concertmaster and a new line, identified that "living with the PPO is very different from my college years. It is a continuous learning experience and is more fulfilling than Being the Lady Gaga."

Another new member, principal trombonist Ritzery Pamisa, shy and young, disarmed the gathering by speaking in Pilipino. A Manila's minister and product of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, he said he came from a family of Iloilo musicians in San Dionis City, Lagos, and his father Ricardo was his inspiration.

He plans to stay with the PPO "hanggang cumanda ako (till I grow old)."

Guest artists for the 2012-2013 season include double-bass soloist Kurt Muroki, conductor Yoshikazu Fukumura, trumpeter Raymund de Leon, cellist Ruki Kitagawa, conductor Hermenegildo Kasuras, tenor Arthur Espiritu, soprano Hyunah Yu, conductor Hisak Gibson, violinist Gus Chic and the winner (to be announced) of the PPO Piano Concerto Competition.

DAHSEN Ochanine, right, Raul Sunico

What makes Hallyu tick?

Beast, 2NE1, Jang Keun Suk, 'Boys over Flowers,' 'Man from the Equator,' and all things Korean have become pop-culture favorites of Filipinos

THE KOREAN Cultural Center, together with the Korea Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (Kofice), will be hosting "Hallyu sa Pinas" on Sept. 14 at Hotel Intercontinental.

The one-day forum will tackle the impact of Hallyu in the Philippines, given the Filipinos' strong interest in Korean dramas, films and music.

Hallyu is derived from the two Korean words Han for "Korean" and Ryu for "wave," bringing about the present-day name for Korean Wave.

The forum will bring together media practitioners, members of the academe, film and music producers, as well as other enthusiasts to look into the past, present and future of Hallyu in the Philippines.

In his theme, director of the Korean movie "Spellbound," will talk about contemporary Korean cinema. "Spellbound" will be premiered during the Kapuso leg of the upcoming Korean Film Festival on Sept. 16.

The film fest will run Sept. 19-Oct. 7 at Gil Puyat, Gil Puyat and Gil City Cinemas.

Korean film producer Sanghoon Ahn, from Sangsang Plus Company will talk about trends in Korean film production. Joining him are local film directors Joyce Bernal, Yuhabelle Lejano Jr., Cris Martinez and Elwo Aguilar.

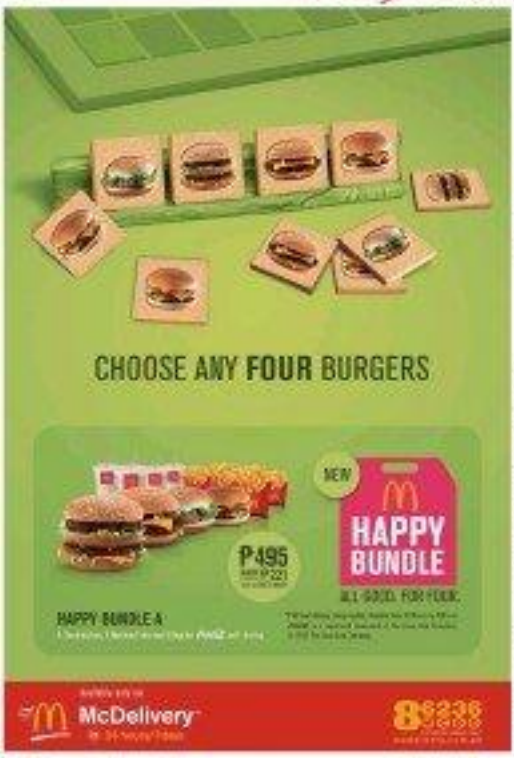
Also to be discussed are Korean television soap operas on Philippine TV and the K-Pop musical craze as embodied in such top Korean pop groups as Beast and 2NE1.

Contact the Korean Cultural Center at (02) 8721-1, or e-mail info@koreanculture.ph.

KOREAN girl group (ME)

KOREAN singer-actor Jang Ji-Hoon (Jain)

DING To work is hard singer-actress, while Kang Jun-hyung is rapper-stylist and some band.



SKETCHES of costume designs by Raja Laurel for the character Anna

'The King and I ': Pageant to enthrall Manila

By Walter Ang
Contributor

RESORTS WORLD Manila is staging the musical "The King and I," with Lea Salonga and Gio Gurrado as King Mongkut and Monique Wilson and Sheila Valderrama as Anna, starting this September.

Based on the experiences of Anna Leonowens, the natural is set in the late 1860s and is about how the King of Siam (now Thailand) hires an English governess to tutor his children in ways of the Western world.

With music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics and book by Oscar Hammerstein, the Broadway musical was adapted into a movie in 1956 starring Yul Brynner as the king.

Directed by noted director Freddie Santos, the production will have close to 200 costumes designed by Raja Laurel and Arnaza Sidayona.

Full circle

"I am not really very familiar with the movie[s]" Laurel says.

He was cast as one of the children in the 1978 staging by Repertory Philippines, where he shared the stage with Lea Salonga and Monchit Lauchengco-Pale, who were also cast as children.

He says it feels as if he's come full circle by now designing costumes for the production. He'd been fascinated by the costumes in the first production and it made him realize he wanted to become a fashion designer.

Tasked to design for the lead characters, Laurel's "plan is to just go in and update the 19th century costuming with a more modern take. The costume history of this production is very rich, specifically Anna's century and keep shiny set against the King of Siam's traditional garb. All it needs is just a modern flourish."

Laurel has designed costumes for Repertory Philippines ("Evita," "My Fair Lady"), Atlanta Productions ("Arrangkada," "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"), Ballet Philippines ("Esmeralda").

Design process

"Designing for the stage is very particular because it deals with both practical functionality and presence. It has to do with all of the outside details which simultaneously appealing to the point of view of an audience member. Practicality is key as the sum of all the details makes for visual impact."

Sidayona, who finds Doris Stokes, will work on costumes for the rest of the cast. She says the preparations for costume design included research through books and the Internet as well as viewings of film versions of the story. "My guideline is the studi-

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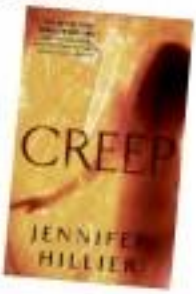
Fil-Canadian thriller writer confesses she's 'the biggest chicken'

By Rust S. De Vera

'Creep' author Jennifer Hillier discusses how she got to write such frightening fiction as well as why a novel set in Manila is a great idea



SHE DOES not belong in the shadows. With her expressive eyes, vibrant voice and bright smile, Jennifer Hillier sounds out amid the many angles and corners of the Ilese Western Premier F1 Hotel in Taguig City.

But the shadows are a place little, if, who is Canadian but born to Filipino parents, is familiar with. She has channeled darker human instincts into two popular thrillers, "Creep" and "Freak."

She's in town as guest of National Book Store, and she's giving local readers a chance to walk a bit on the dark side of the page. She tells her stories with great detail. "Since hearing people call me a full-time writer, it's scary," she says. Getting there starts with freshly minted stories told at home.

Jennifer Lynn Bautista Hillier's father Roberto "Bob" Bautista is a golf instructor in Cebu while her mother Vida is a retiree in Canada. She is the eldest of two siblings.

Born in Ontario, she remembers that, growing up, she had a lot of books at home, but her father thought he could do better, so he made up his own stories for her bedtime.

"It turned into a bedtime ritual where he would sit with me and tell me the greatest of stories until I fell asleep," she recalls. "I think I got my storytelling desire from him because he knew how to keep me engaged."

Hillier wrote her first story at age 5, when she was in first grade; it was her scary version of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves." At the end of the tale, the queen dies a very painful death.

"My teacher was a little shocked, she went: 'You got revenge on the evil queen, good for her wrote.' I've been writing ever since."

She then began crafting short stories throughout grade and high schools, and took up Mass Communication at the University of Toronto, where she graduated with honors.

"I was a journalism major, but I hated it," she says. "I was a terrible reporter. I was too shy to call people up and ask them questions. I was too afraid of rejection."

Hillier's first job was as a copywriter for a boutique ad agency, where she wrote brochures and newspaper ads for clients in the fashion industry.

"I was there for a year and a half, and I hated it," she says. "I was miserable. I was not a creative person. I was not a writer. I was not a storyteller. I was not a novelist. I was not a screenwriter. I was not a playwright. I was not a poet. I was not a songwriter. I was not a musician. I was not a painter. I was not a sculptor. I was not a dancer. I was not a choreographer. I was not a director. I was not a producer. I was not a cinematographer. I was not a film editor. I was not a sound designer. I was not a composer. I was not a conductor. I was not a singer

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A LIFIN BY JEG ARIOLA

PUCAO BABOY BY PH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY BY JOE ESTON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVEWAYS BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE BY THAIS ARIOLA

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTE BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TAGBOK BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It will please you to do something in your power to get better organized today. Be certain you tell and show others exactly what you've planned. They can!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a practical, grounded, tenacious day. You're goods, money, planning, stability and solutions concerns blossom with some positive effects. Increase your positive health, too!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Family discussions will be vigorous and productive today. Look for reports that will make a positive difference at home.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can count a especially comforting, communicative today. This is a good day for those of you who will receive orders (work or at). You will know what you say and to whom you mean!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Trust your instincts today. You will be able to communicate efforts to go along with your ideas. Your creativity and your tendency to favor emotionality.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Whatever you say to others today, they will trust it almost love. That's because the Sun and Mercury activity lined up in your sign. What can stand you!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your powers of focus and concentration are strong today, which means you succeed that you do will be highly worthwhile. You'll find whatever you're looking for somewhere.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): All your meetings will be memorable and successful today. Because you will rapidly express your ideas, in fact, you might be the leader of the pack!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You will make a strong impression on bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs today no matter what you say or how you say it. Be certain you know what you want or getting what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a great day for study. It's also a good time to promote your ideas in publishing and the media or anything related to higher education, medicine and the law.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is the day to defend your best interests if you have disputes about important matters. Also, hands on physical projects. Try or not going to touch down!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Communicate with friends and partners. Activities will be highly lucky. Don't be a push-over! Be sure home, because others will push back! Oh, yeah, I'm a ram. Only when way ahead.

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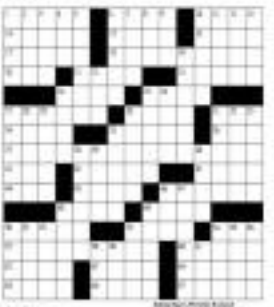

Max's Launches Delectable Beef Selections

Perfect 4Sharing and Bonding Moments

Dining and bonding are two things that go perfectly together. Like spoon is to fork, and pepper is to salt; they are indispensable to each other. If there is one restaurant in the Philippines that understands this completely, it will be Max's Restaurant. Max's has shared tradition and created the most unforgettable memories with Filipino families for 7 generations. From dining solo to dining in big groups, Max's has always been the top-of-mind venue for Filipino celebrations.

Early this year, Max's launched a new group meal bundle that seeks to address the need of customers who are dining in small groups of three or four. Dubbed, "Max's 4Sharing," these delectable meal choices generated a steady following among customers, whether they are teenagers hanging out together, young professionals meeting up for lunch, or seasoned Max's customers craving for their favorite comfort dishes. For the second wave of 4Sharing Meals, Max's has ingeniously introduced mouthwatering beef dishes to delight their customers.

"We have observed that Filipinos love to dine in small groups of three or four, and that they love to pair Max's Fried Chicken with classic heirloom dishes. This September, we are excited to announce two new dishes to complement Max's "soup-to-the-bones" Fried Chicken that will complete the season's Max's 4Sharing Meal – Max's Adobong Baka sa Gata and Max's Beef Caldereta. Our customers can expect the same generous serving and value-for-money aspect that they have always enjoyed with Max's 4Sharing Meals," said Cathey Perez-See, Marketing Manager for Dine-In, Max's Restaurant.

Delectable Beef Dishes from Max's

Max's Adobong Baka is a sure favorite with its tender chunks of beef and sayote cooked in a rich and mildly spiced coconut milk sauce with green finger chili. Max's Beef Caldereta brings the traditional Filipino dish forward and infuses Max's own twist to the recipe. It's a hearty beef stew in thick tomato-based sauce, with just the right level of spiciness, garnished with tomatoes, carrots, red and green bell peppers and green peas.

With Max's 4Sharing Meals, customers can indulge in a sumptuous spread of one whole, regular, soup-to-the-bones Fried Chicken, four servings of rice, four glasses of iced tea, and a choice of Max's Adobong Baka sa Gata or Max's Beef Caldereta. "Priced at only PhP899, Max's 4Sharing is a very affordable meal bundle that is perfect for small group get-togethers. With these new food selections, our customers can fully engage in bonding moments with their friends and family," added Perez-See.

Max's 4Sharing Group Meal offerings will be available for delivery and take-out in all of Max's branches nationwide. It's time to make the beeline once again to Max's Restaurant!

Learn more about Max's Restaurant's latest happenings by logging on to www.maxschicken.com or visit us at www.facebook.com/maxsrestaurant and be the first to know about the coolest offerings from the Filipino's most loved brand.

About Max's Restaurant

Max's, one of the country's leading fast-casual dining restaurant traces its roots to a family's generosity and passion for good food. Max's, "the house that chicken built," continues to innovate and expand worldwide with plans to open branches outside the United States. Today, Max's Restaurant has established itself as a household name, an institution, and a proud Filipino tradition, zealously upholding the values passed on from its early beginnings in 1945 to the present-day generation of food aficionados.

BEDSIDE READING

What books are you reading?

CERES DOYO
Inquirer Up-Ed columnist (Thinner Issue?)

1. "The Golfer of Sarajevo," by Steven Galloway. My friend Nieves Briones gave me a hard-bound copy. I have not finished reading it. It's about how human beings maintain their humanity despite inhumanity.

2. "The Angel's Game" (English translation from the original Spanish), by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. I was awed by his "The Shadow of the Wind" (I just have to read this one. I have not begun but it is exciting.

3. "House of Light," poems by Pulitzer Prize-winning Mary Oliver. She "invites the reader to step across the threshold of ordinary life into a world of restored and spiritual luminosity." A gift from Good Shepherd nonagenarian sister Felish Olagnez, a true blessing.

4. "Hymn of the Universe," by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. This is an old book but I read it again and again for inspiration and meditation, like I do Tagore's "Gitanjali." Ancient yet ever new.

5. The Bible is always within reach, as well as several books of Sadhna parables for mental acuity.

6. **"Think Strategy Activism in the Days of Hurtful Love"** edited by Ferdinand C. Llanera. Features 47+ real stories of courage in the face of terror. I wrote a piece for the book. Also a good read as the 40th anniversary of martial law nears.

Fil-Canadian thriller writer confesses she's 'the biggest chicken'

From page E1

nications and Psychology at York University and the University of Waterloo.

For writing, however, stretched to a halt when she was in her 20s.

"I thought, I don't know if I'm any good at this and if I want to keep doing this," she says, reflecting on how difficult it was to keep writing. So she stopped for 16 years, working to finance.

"I liked my job but I always felt there was something else for me out there."

That something else came when her husband Steve got transferred to Seattle, Washington, in 2007.

"I jumped at it," she remembers, thinking of the change in their lives. "I needed an excuse to leave this life and try something else."

When she arrived in Seattle, she decided it was time to try writing again, and the Pacific Northwest gave her the gift of rediscovering words.

Because Montañez Society has lost her paperwork, she could not be employed as Hillier found herself with ample time, and this marked a return to writing.

"When I began writing 'Creep,' I just had the feeling that I could just finish it, it might not be terrible," she says; her husband proved very supportive.

Dangerous liaison

"Creep," which five came out in 2018, revolves around a Seattle psychology professor Sheila Tate, who is secretly a sex addict and is having an affair with her troubling assistant Ethan Wolfe. But when Tate breaks up with Wolfe because she is getting married, the body of a student is found and Wolfe turns out to be far more dangerous than Tate expected.

When Wolfe carries out his perverted plans, it becomes a race against time to somehow save Tate and stop a murdering psychopath.

Jill Hillier

Amanda Lucia

Full of dark details and sharp, edgy scenes, "Creep" is a page-turner dripping with realism graphic sex and violence.

A claustrophobic reading experience, it grips and disturbs because the characters feel real, so does the danger.

The first scene alone was re-written 50 times. "I had a dream about 'Creep' and I have seeing this because it's a cliché but it's true. I dreamt about the villain, I dreamt about Ethan being this very personable, very bright, very good-looking college student who happens to masquerade as a serial killer. I thought that's interesting because he's so young and he's on campus every day. Imagine what he has access to."

What she thought was going to be a short story soon evolved into a novel. Sheila Tate, originally a minor character, grew into interesting dimensions.

"Creep" sets up the tension well, then plunges into a fun, really frightening ending.

It took her 14 months to write "Creep" and she found an agent shortly afterwards. From the working title of "sex and killer book," she was inspired by the Radiohead song, and thus branded a "Creep" started.

The manuscript was sent to big publishing houses and she got three crushing rejection letters. "I felt terrible," Hillier says.

Then, her agent got an offer from Simon & Schuster. Her novel finally creeped into bookshelves and into the very competitive thriller book market.

Sequel

With the success of "Creep," Hillier had only seven months to write the sequel "Freak," which came out in 2011. In this sequel, Molly's girlfriend, the out-of-control Abby Maddox, is behind him but police may need her help because someone is staging copycat murders of the men Molly was accused of.

Now even Jeff Tate, the private investigator badly wounded in "Creep," must return to try and solve this new wave of deaths.

Hillier describes her time finishing "Freak" as a run stressful because she didn't have the luxury of time like she did with "Creep." Her self writes she had a couple of more months to polish "Freak."

Nevertheless, "Freak" has also proven to be popular and Hillier has begun attracting a following for the dark places she visits.

There have even been a few fan emails calling her "Creepy" for the screen and Hillier is keeping her fingers crossed for a mini-series, TV show or even a movie. She hopes Ryan Gosling stars in Ethan Wolfe.

Despite the darkness in her work, Hillier admits to being "the biggest chicken"—she's afraid of practically everything: walking on uncharted stairs or subway grates, heights, spiders and poisonous drafts.

"I believe everyone's a serial killer. I have all these fears, and I think I manage them by writing about them."

To Toronto

Like her characters, Hillier lives an eventful life.

In December 2011, she and her husband moved to Toronto—with apprehension. It was then that she got the tattoo on her left arm, a quote from "Let it Be" by the Beatles' "whisper words of wisdom."

She wasn't sure she would be really has she's settled in and returned to writing full-time, something Hillier welcomes. She works every day, getting up around 6 a.m. and writing from four to 10 hours. "It's because I'm afraid I won't finish."

Hillier works on long drafts. "My whole first draft is so terrible to Freak," she explains. "The key to a thriller is pacing, and it's hard to get right."

An admirer of the work of Stephen King, Chuck Palahniuk and Chelsea Cain, Hillier describes herself as being girly, loves manicures, listening to music and hanging out with friends and her husband. "I'm a huge chocolate fan and I'm always looking for a new chocolate to try."

In the long term, she sees a lot of work ahead of her. "I actually have seventeen my own—that's as of today," she says, laughing, "and I'm terrified." Hillier admits to being "the worst selling" novels. My real goal is to sell my third book, then my fourth and say 'OK!'"

A part of Hillier's creative process is deeply drawing and asking questions of new people. "I've always interested in what motivates people."

Despite the return to Canada, she will continue to write about the Seattle area. "It just speaks to me, there's something about the place that just makes me feel creative," she says.

Though she misses working on short fiction, Hillier is at work on her next novel, she's not in the same endeavor as "Creep" and "Freak."

She won't be working during her visit here—only her second ever—and she'll be at the Manila International Bookfair on Sept. 16 as Random House Canada.

In the meantime, she'll visit her father in Cebu, going to the beach and enjoying the mangoes. "We have mangoes in Canada, but there's just no comparison."

Despite the more than 8,000 miles between her home and her family, Hillier is always brimming with ideas, including perhaps a prequel to "Creep," but she might just have a great idea away from home.

"I think I would like to set a book in Manila," she says. "I've been thinking about that a lot, for last couple of days. I think that would be kind of neat."

Then she pauses and asks rather nervously, "Do you think people will be offended if I kill Filipinos in my book because I'm not a citizen?"

Assured that it would be fine as long as it's fictional, Inquirer Hillier absorbs this particular idea and begins thinking up another scary story to tell.

Ceta-CDCE confab on language and literature teaching slated Sept. 12-14 at SMX

THE PHILIPPINE English Teachers Association (PETA), Council of Department Chairpersons of English (CDCE) and the Department of English and Comparative Literature (DECL) of UP Diliman, in partnership with Primerudo data, Inc. Professional Event Organizer will be conducting "A National Conference on Language and Literature, Paradigms, Pedagogies and Practices," Sept. 12-14, at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City.

The conference will bring together experts from the Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, Far Eastern University, Silliman University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, University of San Carlos, University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas who will deliver papers and conduct demo workshops on the best and most recent paradigms, pedagogies and practices in the academic disciplines of language and literature.

Featured speakers include National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose, UP professor Gemino H. Abad, UP professor and DECL Center for Creative Writing and University Student Regent Criterio Principe Hidalgo Jr.

Registration fee, which covers lunch and snacks, certificates and conference kit, is P1,500 for CETA, CDCE and DECL members, and P1,800 for regular participants.

Call 8960861, 8960882, fax 8960695; e-mail conference@primerudodata.com; visit www.primerudodata.com.

Fil-Am writer Oscar Peñaranda to deliver talk at UP

FILIPINO-AMERICAN writer Oscar Peñaranda will deliver his talk, "Stronger on Both Shores," on Sept. 12, 2-5 p.m., at the FC Conference Hall, UP College of Arts and Letters, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The talk is sponsored by the UP Institute of Creative Writing and the Union ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas (Unpil).

Unpil member Peñaranda last Aug. 25 at the CCP with the Gawad Surian Sining (Gagad) in Bologna, an annual literary recognition for accomplished Filipino writers, "for his poetry of a deeply felt humanity describing the fantastic location and state of the Filipino-American."

Born in 1944 in Baroyo, Leyte, Peñaranda immigrated to Canada in 1970. He lived in Vancouver for five years. On his eastern year, he briefly transferred to San Francisco where he went to St. Ignatius High School. He earned his BA in Literature and MA in Creative Writing at San Jose Franciscan State University where he taught and became part of the struggle to establish ethnic studies in the schools.

His works include short stories, poetry plays, novels, TV and film scripts. His stories were anthologized in "Fiction by Filipinos in America" (1993) and "Growing Up Filipino: Stories for Young Adults" (2004). His poetry collection, "Full Deck" (Jokers Playing) was published in San Francisco in 2009.

Poet-fictionist Cesar Ruiz Aquino to lecture on writing in Silliman

DETROIT-BSD poet Cesar Ruiz Aquino will give a talk on his aesthetics in a lecture, "The Dove, The Tower & The Tornado: Literary Icons I've Treasured as a Writer," on Sept. 13, 10:15 a.m., at the Honorata Kabus Lecture Hall (Science Complex Room 130) in Silliman University, Dumaguete City.

The lecture is part of the Silliman and Edith Tiempo Creative Writer Center lecture series.

Aquino belongs in the hallowed generation of young writers in the 1960s that included Jose Lacaba Jr., Alfred Yuson, Wilfredo Pascua Sanchez, Ernie Castillo, Nonoi Ilaya Rosca and Profilio Tern Jr.

He teaches at Silliman where he obtained his doctorate of degree.

He has won the Palanca four times for his fiction and his poetry, the Free Press poetry prize and the Graphic short story prize.

In 2004 he received the Alabastro Award from the Prince of Thailand in Bangkok for "Dardarya," a personal anthology of poems and prose pieces, both in fiction and nonfiction.

His other books include "Chronicles of Surigaon" (short stories, Kalikasan Press, 1986), "Wind Pichon Pod" (poems, Anvil Publishing, 1993), "El Guimbatuan" (poems, UST Press, 2005).

The lecture is open to the public. E-mail ulb-mail.ces@gmail.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto S. Velarde

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Zsa Zsa's seatmate

ON HER way home to Manila from the United States, Zsa Zsa Padilla took a snapshot of her sleeping daughter Zia Quizon. "My seatmate ... she posted on Facebook. "After my roommate for a month ... Thank you [Ian] Jesse, for my girls Kenzie and Nicole. They are a great blessing in my life!" Zsa Zsa had kidney surgery in LA to remove a growth that proved to be benign.

HEARD

Rigoni Dan Diego Jr.

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- 'Idols' refresher starts with Erika /F3
- Acclaimed actor relearns his craft /F4
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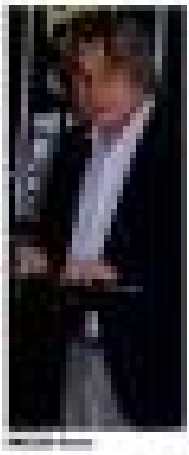
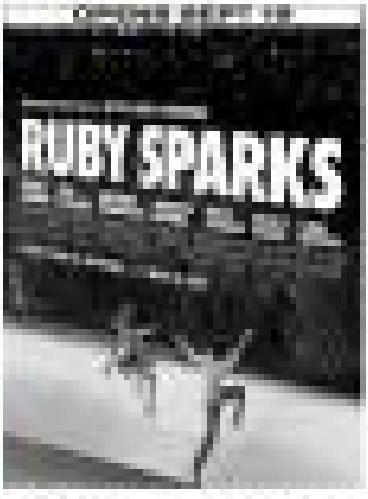
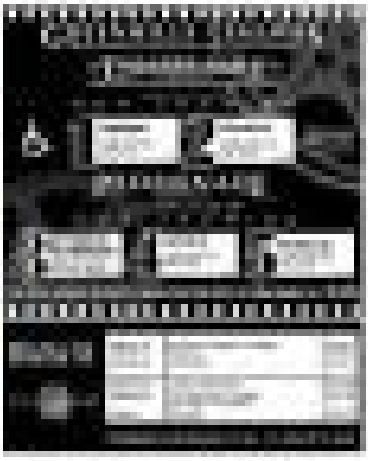
At last, no more first day-last day for indies

Wisconsin's grassroots movement levels playing field for filmmakers



'Idols' refresher: First to go among the final 10





When it's time to relearn acting

Pen Medina says, 'Actors are like violinists and pianists. We have to practice regularly. We should always be in good shape. We constantly listen and observe; even the veterans do this'

By Marinell R. Cruz

OSTENSIBLY acclaimed actor Pen Medina, who is also an acting coach, always advises his students "to always be truthful and sincere to their audience."

The veteran thespian, however, concedes that he does not always practice what he preaches to his students in his acting workshop, "SelfsTRODUCTION: A Different Approach to Film and TV Acting," which he first conducted in 2009.

Medina explains: "In TV shows, [while] my peers participate for [movie-a man too they make you cry]. I'm not being truthful in the scene. But I'm personally not used to displaying emotions. What I've realized was that I don't always practice what I preach. So I felt that it was time to relearn acting myself."

What he does, Medina says, is "discover my character's inner dialogue. What does he always say to himself? 'I'm handsome' ... 'I'm rich' ... 'I'm extremely shy.'"

He continues: "What you say to yourself is reflected in your actions. Then I try to learn his life story and understand why he talks to himself the way he does. Did he grow up in a loving family or did he always get beaten up?"

For his role as Mother Ros in the latest GMA 7 drama series "Two in One Images," Medina had to do a lot of research. "It's not easy for a straight guy to effortlessly portray a gay role," he pointed out.

Below are excerpts from the Inquirer interview with Medina.

So what's his character's inner dialogue?

Magandang ako!" "Sobra ako kahit ya (ay ako!" Whatever you say to yourself, your body follows. Of course, you should also ask your director what he wants out of the character. There are directors who just leave you alone—it's up to you to find out.

Is there any role that you still find difficult to do?

I don't think of myself as a good actor. Actors are like violinists and pianists. **We have to practice regularly. [Input: Ligtas ryan kasi!]** [Oo. **We should always be in good shape**]. We constantly listen and observe; even **veteran actors do this. On a movie set,** there are many distractions—people **walking and talking, cameras** and other noisy equipment needing to be **moved around. There are times when** I'm ready to act out a scene but the crew members aren't yet. When this happens, I lose my concentration.

PEN MEDINA: his three actor-sons

Do you watch your work?

Sometimes. Now that I'm older, I want to collect them. Of my 20 years in the industry, I have copies of only three films, and they're all gifts from friends.

What kind of fulfillment do you get from being an acting coach?

Nothing compares to the feeling of seeing my student finally deliver well what was required of him in a particular scene. A lot of actors are used in the supporting-clown of [ours. This is like an epidemic] in my workshops, it has become my crusade to change this. Input nagpi-pray ka ba na... (You] should be true to yourself first] before you can act well.

Good actors are skilled such because they are natural in front of the camera, they are able to connect to their audiences, they're truthful and sincere. If you've mastered this, then you're already 85 to 90 percent on your way to being a good actor.

Can you name some of your students that you find impressive?

I don't remember their names. Most of them **managed to correct the** stagnant delivery during the workshops, but **this comes back when they** resume taping their teleseryes, especially if their directors don't take notice. I mean a lot of talented young actors who are forced to perform poorly because they're always in a rush to beat airing deadlines. Oftentimes, they don't have enough time to learn about their characters or how to best deliver their lines.

Three of your five sons (Peng, 29; Alex, 27, and Mister, 22) are also actors. Have they attended any of your workshops?

Peng used to think he's too shy to be an actor. I don't know what made him consider acting on TV and film. Peng and Alex are natural actors. They don't come to my workshops, they just ask me stuff like, "How do you attack this character, Dad?"

You didn't mind them joining show biz?

I would support them even if they chose to become soap dancers. I don't see anything wrong with working in show business. If it's what they want, they have the talent for it, and the work ethic done. Here I have no qualms.

Exactly how do you support them in their endeavors?

They don't live in my house anymore, so they tell me what to watch out for through text messages. It's funny because sometimes they don't want me to see their projects. Or else proud. (They're not proud). They'll say, "Dad, di ako ma-guling dun. (I didn't do well there.)" / would say, "Never mind. I'll still see it and then we'll discuss it over dinner."

Any treasured advice that you give them?

I always say to them: Go for whatever your heart desires. Do what you enjoy doing, but make sure to do it in the best of your abilities.

[The] Sin Bagsi," which premieres Wednesday night on GMA 7, is written by Jun Robles Lana and directed by Jon Michael Perez. It features Mona Louise Rey, LJ Reyes, Paolo Contis, Gerald Anderson and Angelika dela Cruz.)

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ENTERTAINMENT

ECHO (right) with girlfriend Kim and Christian with girlfriend Carla

Partying with Echo, Christian

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

I HAD a blast at the 60th birthday bash of Solar Entertainment president Wilson Tieng at Mandarin Oriental. The orbeau de la crème of Philippine showbiz, politics and high society were present.

Spotted at the party were Jennylyn Mercado with his girlfriend Kim Jones and Christian Bautista with his significant other, Carla Dunuwenno. Kim hosts "Eyewon" and "I Am Meg" on ETC, while Carla, who's half-Chinese half-Australian, is a model-actress/dancer/host.

Do they have marriage plans already?

"Kim yes," Bahn said. "We've been together for a year. So far, so good. I plan to introduce her to my son-in-law first."

Christian said: "We're taking it slow. It's been six months [and] nothing down to part of the plan, but not at the moment. We've both met each other's families, though."

No ill feelings

Echo was excited about his coming birthday on Sept. 22, while Christian said he was busy preparing for his concert, "I Can Clean," on Oct. 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at the Meralco Theater.

Also at Wilson's party I bumped into Shirley Kuan, manager of Claudine Barretto. Some controversies ago, Shirley burned a press con in reaction to an article I wrote about Claudine.

Some of my media "friends" who had taken her side lambasted me in their columns. But I never retaliated in my own column. That's not my style.

I made the first move to greet Shirley and told her, "Uy! Wala na 'yun, ha?" She looked so shocked, as if she had seen a ghost.

Be that as it may, I was sincere in making peace with her. It felt so liberating to learn how to forgive and forget.

I no longer harbor ill feelings in my heart. And that, for me is the best birthday gift I can give myself.

Dark horse

I am pleasantly surprised by the talents seen on TV5's "Artista Academy." There are many upstarts worth mentioning, but one who really stands out for me is Sophie Albert.

Initially regarded as a dark horse, Sophie has emerged as a deserving contender for "Artista Academy's" first best actress. Watch out for this young thespian—she has an exciting career ahead of her.

SOPHIE Albert

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GENSAN

BACOLOD

ILOILO

PALAWAN

How not to cover disasters for TV

BOSTON (AP) A typhoon, flood or other disaster strikes, we get disturbing and sometimes disturbing lessons on how TV people should not cover those destructive and life-threatening news events. Instructively, this is true not just of local news orgs, but also of the way that some TV people in the US (for matter or "pump up" the adrenaline or visual impact of storms and floods, like last month's destructive typhoon).

To show how brave and self-less they are, hold reporters and weather people were, (a) TV networks showed some of them practically tying themselves to the trunk of trees as they gasp high-powered on the gales and whirlwinds and (secretive) raise dripping items to the lens and nodding them to the hosts'

Why did they feel that television had to be shown in great detail how strong and destructive the storm-typhoon was? Why did they have to offer demonstrations up as (a) pigs or unwilled sideways at the time of in your face, mega reality TV news coverage?

It was also ironically instructive to see that, as the brave and daring and selfless TV reporters were risking their lives in the name of public service and personal-story news coverage, (b) many of the American counterparts. They made sure that their hair was wet from the rain, but they wisely got out of the gales' direct line of fire. That's more like it!

Of course, there's something to be said for helping viewers experience "the feel" the physical, tactile and emotional effects of a disaster to program, the better for them to appreciate the gravity of its impact on the physical elements.

But, when the "selfies" coverage is obviously being done for looking for "personalized" stories of pain, tragedy and loss.

The worst example of this was On coverage of an earthquake in the previous years ago with the TV reporter interviewing a victim while she was still pinned down by a fallen girder.

He asked her all sorts of inane, (a) questions about how she felt, etc., when it was clear that she was seriously injured.

She politely answered his insensitive questions as best as she could, instead of pushing him away, as he deserved. The prayed that she would survive that traumatic experience—and that the interviewer would belatedly realize that, in trying to get a "scoop" interview, he had gone way too far.

They made sure that their hair was wet from the rain, but wisely got out of the gales' line of fire

all seeking shelter somewhere, as all right-thinking people shouldn't enough said.

More cautious

Some months ago, it was the turn of some local news anchors to lay their lives on the line in the name of instant, you-are-there disaster coverage. To their credit, however, they were much more cautious than their gung-ho American counterparts.

Their wisdom in partially for effect, and to "contextualize" edited TV station' more circumspect and objective coverage of the disaster, some TV people's priorities are clearly out of whack.

Worst example

Yes, typhoons and floods are major news events because they make or create people suffer, but reality is not the stuff of which pulp-raising melodrama is made, and its purveyors demean the public they profess to care when they exploit its misery.

The same reason pretty much hold true for other kinds of disaster, assessed on TV like earthquakes and fires: Show a the temptation to scoop the competi-

Indie maverick recreates horror classic by Bernal

By Rayael San Diego Jr.

INDIE filmmaker Rico Maria Ilarde finds it "daunting" to recreate the late Mikhail Bernal's "Pridyider," an episode from the film "Shake, Rattle & Roll" trilogy in 1984.

Bernal, a National Artist for Film, is "one of the greats," Ilarde points out. "Moreover, it was Amado Lacuesta who wrote the original."

Ilarde, only hopes that his take on the horror classic "enhances the 'Pridyider' myth and mystique that Bernal and Lacuesta established, without disrespecting or diminishing it."

Ilarde recalls watching Bernal's film as a kid, when it was first shown in the 1980s. "I thought it was very well-made and creepy as hell."

It's "embarrassing," he explains, that "the footage on YouTube looks dated. Perhaps that has to do more with the deplorable condition of the print."

The sad state of the print of the first "Shake" on YouTube, he says, "brings to the fore what all filmmakers must compete against: the use of time for the original 'Pridyider' will always remain a classic."

Puller story

With this in mind, he sought to recapture the mood of the original with Regal's lone shocker, "Pridyider," which opens nationwide on Sept. 19.

With this new film, Ilarde aims to generate a fuller story, reminding the origins of the haunted refrigerator. "I can't speak for Alfredo Lacuesta, but I feel that the original is a social satire, possibly a commentary on modern society's consumerism and how 'things' control people around this household appliance."

Collaborative

Actor Simon Ortiner, who got to work with Ilarde for the first time, describes the director as collaborative. "He gave us freedom, listened to our suggestions," Simon says. "He respects actors."

Beauty queen Venus Raj, who makes her big-screen debut in the film, agrees with Ortiner. "Direk Rico guided me every step of the way. He would not use a scene before a take. He would do my lines during dubbing, too."

Ilarde, an honoree at the first Sinaunang Indie Filmfest, is known for devoting to horror the same passion that his contemporaries dedicate to social issues.

"Horror is here to stay," he insists. "It's no longer a genre that's gotten. Every filmmaker I know wants to make a horror film. I'd like to think my colleagues and I helped establish or reestablish the genre's vitality and relevance in the local scene."

Producer Rosella Abaya-tewerks relates that a foreign press festival programmer has expressed interest in screening the film after catching the trailer on Twitch.com.

Ilarde says he has some favorite filmmakers. "But for 'Pridyider,' I looked to the older generation of emerging filmmakers for inspiration—Alfred Hitchcock, Sam Peckinpah, Brian De Palma, John Carpenter, Stuart Gordon."

MCD Ilarde

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14. Vouchers/tickets are not for sale and are not convertible to cash.

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It's National Teachers' Month

Thank a teacher who helped make you a better you.

BENCH-IIE SERIAL READING

Earth Healers Chapter 1: Mang Gorio's Cave Hit

Are you an innovative high school student?

By Stephen Mervius A. Pudlis
Contributor

STUDENT leaders from the University of the Philippines-Diliman have launched "Project Tuklas: The Discovery of Outstanding Student Innovators."

The project, which ARSEC-UP Diliman hopes to make an annual event, aims to help students excel and to boost the passion of young Filipinos for learning and innovation.

ARSEC-UP Diliman is conducting the contest with Philippine-Shell Petroleum Corp. and the Philippine Development Foundation (PhilDev).

For the first competition, entries will be accepted only from 24 (and counting) public high schools in Metro Manila exclusively in October. The awarding will be in January.

Supported by the Department of Education, Project Tuklas, whose "movement and supported by the youth and by smart players in society," wants to discover and invest in the Philippines' next generation of inventors, scientists, engineers and innovators.

Not enough

"Being a youth leader is no longer enough," says Julio Alexandru D. Ona, ARSEC's local committee president.

She says ARSEC believes that students, though young, have the capacity to take a more proactive role in nation-building. ARSEC describes itself as "a global, grassroots, independent, not-for-profit organization run by students and recent graduates of institutions of higher education," which envisions "peace and fulfillment of humankind's potential."

Making the youth more active in nation-building would be possible if they would take part in searching for and shaping future science and technology leaders of the country, Ona adds.

Through Project Tuklas, third-year students from the 24 preselected Metro Manila public high schools will be challenged to create and submit proposed scientific innovations based on the theme "The Future of Energy."

The theme is meant to encourage participants to draw up solutions to the increasing demand for fuel as the world's population continues to grow.

The competition is divided into three stages. The first stage is a local competition in each of the 24 public high schools. Students who show exemplary aptitude and interest in science and technology will be chosen as the school's representatives. Every high school will be represented by two five-member teams.

The second stage is the preliminary competition, where 48 participating teams, composed of 480 students, will present their outcomes of their project proposals.

Preliminary competitions will be held in four area clusters: Makati and Pasay city; Mandaluyong, Pasig and Marikina; Manila, Caloocan and Pasay; and Quezon City. Three winners will be chosen in each cluster for a total of 12 teams or 60 students.

The final leg is the culminating contest for the remaining teams, whose members—all 60 of them—will receive scholarship grants. A college scholarship fund has been established by PhilDev for promising young students joining the project.

The top three winners in the finals will receive cash prizes and contest excellence packages.

Expert mentors

From start to finish, ARSEC's global interns, with backgrounds in engineering, information technology and life and natural sciences, will assist participants in developing their proposals and in improving the prototypes to become renewable and sustainable energy projects.

Project Tuklas will focus on one of a kind experience for the participants as they will be mentored by local and foreign industry experts throughout the qualifying event. Students are expected to get hands-on training and team-confidence-building skills.

ABE IGNACIO

FOCAL B Chua, Shell country chair Julia Chua, ARSEC president and Amber Tan, PhilDev trustee

FINALISTS (L&R) Ateneo (right) finds Philja (second from left) and Ateneo (right) finds Philja (second from right) Court Associate Justice Roberto Abad and ICRC head of delegation Pascal Marchis

St. La Salle is moot court competition champ again

THE UNIVERSITY of St. La Salle (USLS) in Bacolod City regained recently the championship in the National Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law.

The USLS last won the championship five years ago. The team will represent the Philippines in the Asia-Pacific regional finals in Hong Kong in 2013.

The USLS wins the 2012 competition by beating the Ateneo de Manila Law School in the finals held at the Supreme Court en banc session hall.

The annual competition aims to promote knowledge and appreciation of international humanitarian law (IHL) among Philippine law students.

The USLS and Ateneo faced off over the fictional case of Colonel Jones who was charged in the International Criminal Court for alleged violations of IHL, also known as the law of armed conflict.

Nadine Abenoja of the USLS, who was chosen best mooter in the final round, said winning the championship again after five years made all the hard work and preparation worth it.

Runner-up themes was awards for best memorials, prepared written arguments from the perspectives of both prosecution and defense.

Pauline Guinanao of the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law team won the Aurora Tan Luciano Best Memorial Award, as the highest-ranking outline in the elimination rounds. The award, which was given for the first time, honored the Court of Appeals associate justice and chair of the IHL Committee of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) who passed away last year.

The UP team also won the solo-play challenge, during which teams played roles in a simulation aimed at showcasing practical applications of the body of law sought to limit, for humanitarian reasons, the effects of war.

WINNING! USLS team of Jose Pio Tena and Abenoja

The final round was judged by a panel composed of Supreme Court Associate Justice Roberto Abad, Dr. Mario Aguja of Mindanao State University-General Santos City, Philippine Judicial Academy chancellor Adolfo Azcuna, brig. Gen. Domingo Tesoro Jr., chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Human Rights Office; Christopher Michael, regional legal adviser for Southeast Asia of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and Ile La Salle University School of Law vice dean Jocelyn Uson.

Michael, a veteran judge of moot court competitions, said the presence of IHL in curricula, the discussion of the law in the media and the annual commemoration of IHL month in August, showed that the

ST. LA SALLE U.

Outstanding science and math teachers

(First of two parts)

THE 2012 Metrobank Foundation 10 Outstanding Teachers—four from the elementary level, four from secondary and two from tertiary—are examples of commitment and service. They were formally recognized on Sept. 5 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, as part of the foundation's 30th anniversary celebration.

METROBANK Foundation president Antonio M. Sobrepeña, CHED Chair Patricia B. Licuanan and Education Secretary Armin A. Luistro, FSC, are flanked by the awardees.

Elementary science

Roberto D. Santos Jr. has been teaching science for 11 years at Santa Rita Elementary School in Capas, Tarlac. The youngest awardee this year, the 33-year-old Santos has a chemical engineering degree education, major in educational management. But, instead of teaching in college, he has devoted himself to basic education.

Santos developed Science Intervention Materials to help students master fundamental skills. The award-winning modules are widely used in public schools around the nation.

He has also made teaching devices out of recyclable materials, such as the inspirational apparatus called Bottles for the Brain. Aside from making science more interesting, this tool motivates him to do research and modules for study.

His science teacher practices what he preaches. Santos has spearheaded the "Basura Mo, Misto Ko" campaign to urge students and their families to turn trash into cash. Funds have been raised to replace the school's water tank and to purchase garbage bins.

Hazel M. Medalle has also been teaching science for 11 years, at Ambo II Elementary School in Iriga, Cavite. Her community lessons are breath.

Her human-sized robot (albeit made out of wood), lovingly called "Iron Tech 2012," won in the Regional Academic Competition Elementary Science for public schools two years ago.

Medalle has used comic strips based on his students' favorite cartoon characters to teach science. He has composed science songs in the tune of Philippine folk songs to muddle his classes in familiar themselves with the lessons.

As a result, Ambo Elementary has improved its performance in the National Achievement Test.

Believing in the concept of "passing it forward," Medalle also volunteers as a teacher in the Alternative Learning System (ALS), teaching inmates at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology every week. He also trains employees of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Division of Iriga in tree planting and flood mitigation.

Physics

Ruel Bello B. Cavalliel Jr. has been teaching physics for 24 years at Ernesto Rondon High School (ERHS) in Project 8, Quezon City. Physics is one of the hardest subjects to learn, and one of the most frustrating to teach.

Cavalliel has developed video lessons to help students understand force, mass and acceleration better. Last year, he presented his video strategies at the Leaders and Educators in Asia Programme Educators' Conference.

The author of "It's Time Magazine," Cavalliel envisions this physics learning supplement around the country. His physics modules are used in the ALS in Quezon City.

A part-time teacher at the Philippine School of Business Administration, Cavalliel also teaches Mandarin and, in fact, has written a textbook on the basics of the language. An overseas-contract advocate, Cavalliel organized the Kalinaw Film Festival, where students showcase their films on preserving our lands and seas.

He has written a manual on ERHS' waste management system, and has led cleanup drives in barangays in Quezon City. He also regularly helps students at risk, especially those who have dropped out of school because of poverty.

Mathematics

Nestor P. Manggoang has been teaching math for 15 years at Mati-B Integrated School in Baganga, Davao Oriental. He developed materials to make learning math more interesting and enjoyable, such as the "Plant Value Mat." This teaching aid has been so helpful in introducing addition and subtraction with regrouping in the primary grades that it has been adopted by teachers in other schools in Pantal City.

The coordinator of the school's Brigada Eskwela, Manggoang has been instrumental in its being recognized in 2009 as the project's Regional then Implementer.

Actively involved in the community's annual festival, the Pistadon de Pasil, Manggoang also helps the Pakiosa Heritage, a group that aims to preserve Bobol's culture and, at the same time, provides scholarships to poor but deserving students.

Catherine P. Vitero No. my colleague, has been teaching math education for 21 years at Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City. She has edited Grade 7 Math modules for the K to 12 program and, together with colleagues from several universities, has developed math frameworks for basic education and teacher education for the Philippines.

Vitero No. has trained math teachers through formal courses, seminars, conferences and workshops on curriculum, assessment and other aspects of math.

One of the founders of the Philippine Council of Math Teacher Educators, she has joined the International project Teacher Education Development Study in Math and represented our country in the International Commission on Mathematics Instruction.

In 2007, she was recognized as one of The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service.

E-mail the author at lilvalenz@yahoo.com.

Playgrounds for the MIND

Editor-in-Chief
Gigi Editor Chapois Medina

Makati formally launches K to 12 program

MAKATI, Sept. 10, 2012 was historic for the City of Makati and University of Makati (UMak) with the formal launch of the K to 12 Senior High School Modelling Program following the signing of a tripartite agreement by the Department of Education (DepEd), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the City Government of Makati.

K to 12, aimed at strengthening the country's educational system with the additional two years of basic education, is one of the flagship projects of President Benigno Aquino III and expected to benefit more globally competitive Filipinos. This intervention is long overdue as the Philippines is one of the few remaining countries in the world with a 10-year basic education cycle. DepEd chose UMak as one among only 50 schools in the country to pilot test the program.

Branded as Higher School ng UMak (HSU), UMak's version of the Senior High School Program has a three-fold objective: 1) enhance learning outcomes/ competencies in English, Filipino, Math and Science; 2) give a variety of course options aligned with students' area of interest's for specialization and potential work opportunities; and 3) promote values formation and citizenship.

With barely six months of preparations prior to its initial implementation last June, HSU already boasts of more than 5,000 Grade 11 students for school year 2012 to 2013, way ahead of its nationwide implementation in 2016.

For more information on HSU, please call the HSU Office at 882-0520 / 882-0077 / 882-0059 local 240.

UST hosts START 2012 Manila

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas (UST) hosted the international conference titled "Science and Technology for Arts, Conserving and Recording Tangible, Intangible, and Natural Heritage" or START 2012. The conference, which is sponsored by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, was held from Sept. 3 to 7 at the UST Civil Law Auditorium and the UST Graduate School.

The conference and training program featured plenary talks from international experts on how to conserve and record the heritages. Speakers included Prof. Ad Melkert (Utrecht University, Japan), Prof. Hidetoshi Tokuno (University of the Philippines), Chito Oreña (World Heritage Shimogi Temple, Japan), Ichi Zentoku (Center for Conservation of Cultural Properties and Environments in the Tropics, UST), Prof. Sarah Kenderdine (University of Hong Kong), Dr. Ana Maria Thereza Labrador (National Museum, Philippines), Dr. Maria Serena Diokno (National Historical Commission of the Philippines), Chiyoko Ikeda (Kyoto International Heritage Office, Japan), Dr. Jay Anne Glenson Tagoe (Kyoto University, Japan), Mike Balmond (UST), Prof. Maria Reyes (UST), architect Wilkie de Lemos and architect Louis Valerio (National Historical Commission of the Philippines).

For more info., log on to sites.google.com/site/ustfdi1/manila.

Philippine Normal University celebrates 111 years of teaching teachers

AS A leading center for teacher education in the country, Philippine Normal University laments the theme "PNU 100 Number One at 111" in its foundation anniversary celebration this September. A month-long celebration hosted by festivities and programs kicked off last Sept. 3. On Sept. 5, a graduate forum was held at the University Auditorium. On Sept. 10, the PNU week parade will be launched along with the inauguration of the newly renovated APEC Auditorium. In the afternoon, the ICT Lounge reserve of faculty e-mail addresses and distribution of faculty business cards will highlight the day's program. The culminating of the week Music, Mission, and Goals takes place on Sept. 28 as a prelude to the university convocation. Capping the month-long commemoration, selected distinguished alumni will be feted through a scenic called, *A Night with the Alumni*. For details, contact Prof. Arthur S. Abadesco, DIC, Center for Linkages and Extension Services, PNU at 527-0987.

Letran hosts MMFF/MMDA mobile phone film contest launch

COLLEGE de San Juan de Letran hosted the forthcoming launch of "The 1st Kino! Cine-Phone Film Festival," sponsored by the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), at the Student Center Auditorium last Aug. 5. Students from metropolitan-based schools, namely Letran System of the Philippines University, Mapua Institute of Technology and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, attended the event. The MMFF Cine-Phone Film Festival is a mobile phone movie-making contest for high school and college students nationwide. With the theme "Restoring Road Courtesy among Motorists and Pedestrians," the students are given the opportunity to tell unique stories and create quality films through the use of a camera phone. A total of six entrants will be chosen—one from high school and one from college—from each of the three regions of the country (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao). All winners will receive P70,000, a high-end smart phone, mobile phone credits, broadband connection from Smart Communications, some-year internship from Viva Productions, a camera from Sony, six-month free subscription from Manila Bulletin, and an opportunity from director Paul Soriano, head of the MMFF New Talent Section-Master Class Film. From his entries, the best script will also be chosen by Manila Bulletin for the Special Story Award.

Globe, SingTel announce scholarship grant winners

FOUR freshmen students from Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University graduated to become scholarship grantees to become this year's Globe-SingTel Undergraduate Scholarship Program awardees. Ateneo's Michael Steven Minlon, Danielle Wayne, and Jasmaine Cristobal, and La Salle's Peyton Romeo Nuyda passed a tough selection process that involved paper screening, interview rounds, and leadership and behavioral assessments. They will receive full scholarship assistance from and allowances for the entire duration of their undergraduate course. Upon graduation, the students will have a chance for an internship stint in Singtel, and the opportunity to be part of the Management Associate Program of Singtel or Globe.

BRIEFS

UERMMMCI to unveil medical researches in launch

UERM Memorial Medical Center, Inc. will unveil the completed researches of its personnel in the 1st UERMMMCI Basic Research Compendium: Books of Abstracts 2011-2012, and the new UERMMMCI Medical Health Sciences Journal, Vol. 1 No. 1, on Sept. 13, 8 a.m., at the UERMMMCI Physiology Auditorium. Part of the research launch will be the presentations of the nine official logo of the Research Institute for Health Sciences and the formal signing of a memorandum of understanding for joint research project collaborations on the development of biomedical devices with the Technological Institute of the Philippines.

PWU starts entrepreneurship lectures

THE CONRADO Benitez Institute for Business Education of the Philippine Women's University recently held its Entrepreneurship Bazaar Lecture Services and Job Fair in Malate (CBI). Formally opening the enrollment, PWU vice president for external affairs Antonio Nieto, dean Dr. Lorenzo Lorenzo, professor Teresa Chiong and Aida Bermoya. The lecture series on entrepreneurship, business and technology were conducted by Kiara Mahendradatt, Penny Bongato and Professor Dino Dino.

Westfields holds parents enrichment seminar

WESTFIELD International School Angeles City held a well-attended Parents' Enrichment Seminar last Aug. 23 with guest speaker Bernard Cardadeal Clapton Poto, president and Pastor Veritas 846 program head who shared his views on "Parenting the New Generation".

DPS partners in best tourism practices award

DILIMAN Preparatory School (DPS) partners with the Department of Tourism (DoT) and the Advanced Institute of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (AITOP) in the third year of their collaboration with the theme, "LAKBAY PINASaya na DPS" on Sept. 11 to 13. The event will showcase booths from different provinces and cities. The tourism celebrations is in line with the 13th annual AITOP Best Tourism Practices Awards valedictory and judging is on Sept. 13 and 14. The culminating award should be the Awards Night on Oct. 4 in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte.

GCIC observes cultural awareness week

GLOBAL City Innovative College celebrated with a group activities Hispanic ethnic & economic culture, arts, and festivities among its students. Last Aug. 13, GCIC staged "DESIGN: Mikilos, Kasaulan at Hilbuja, isang Pagtatanghal ukol sa Bishop of Bathalang Filipino" in observance of the college's Cultural Awareness Week (CAC). Selected unique fashion set design courtesy of Ed Mendiz, president of the Philippine Fashion Foundation, and the works of Herman Cruz, a contemporary artist, were displayed. A fashion show featuring the modern interpretations and dancing collections of Mentrico Cruz of Tanjay Road added color to the event, to remind titled "Ulap Ng Kinang Lahi" featuring the music of Fred Sanglay and the New Pinoy Jam Band was the grand finale highlight. The event was made possible through the efforts of GCIC's Student Affairs in partnership with the Marketing Artists and Writers Federation.

STI begins countdown to 30th anniversary

MORE than 30,000 students from STI campuses in different parts of the country gathered to a whole-day celebration at the Fontinental Kingdome Sta. Rosa, Laguna on Sept. 07 marked the 29th anniversary with the theme "XXX: Ready to Thirty." STI kicked off a year-round celebration of milestone activities and events leading to its 30th anniversary celebration in 2013 which will feature different academic competitions on computer programming, software arts and management, essay writing, and public speaking across its campuses. Established on Aug. 24, 1983, STI is one of the largest networks of schools in the Philippines with more than 75,000 students nationwide.

HONOR ROLL

UE CoEd dean receives lifetime achievement award

DR. EVELINA Marcelino Escareso, dean of the University of the East College of Education, was recently honored the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of the Philippines at the ASEP's 54th Annual National Course Meeting on May 30 at the Camiguin Convention Center in Barangay Camiguin. The award was conferred by Vice President Jazmar C. Tiongco, Davao Oriental, consultant-assistant director and ASEP leader trainer, at the term lifetime achievement awardee and the first ever woman to receive the award. Dean Escareso's involvement in Scouting covers 54 years in various capacities.

TIP College of Business dean wins outstanding NCR finance educator award

FLORIMOND Mondejar, chairman of the Philippines Deposit Corp. (PDIC), College of Business Education dean Dr. Angeles de Guzman was recognized as the 2011-2012 Outstanding Finance Educator (OFE) of the National Capital Region (NCR). The award was sponsored by the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) and Deloitte R&A & Co.

This is the second time in three years that someone from TIPCOE is given the OFE recognition. A total of 73 nominees nationwide participated and underwent rigorous screening process conducted by a committee of FINEX officers and Deloitte R&A partners. Two other outstanding finance educators were recognized earlier from TIP's De Guzman.

Southville student bags Cinemalaya best supporting actor win

SOUTHVILLE International School and Colleges' (SIS) nonresident student John Rome "Sweet" Samson won the Best Supporting Actor Award in the 2012 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival. Cinemalaya is a film competition and festival that aims to encourage the creation of new cinematic works by Filipino filmmakers. Sweetie played the role of Bentong Balas, an out-of-school youth filled with anger, in the film "Ishmael: Balat na Kapa Kabayo." This not-so-right sister film, which falls under the New Breed Category, is adapted from Ilocano's 2001 Palanca Grand Prize Short Story.

Member Schools

Filipino, German students exchange program

By Tara Quimando

THE PHILIPPINES and Germany will have embarked on a pioneering student exchange program to give their students invaluable educational experiences while pursuing their studies.

The Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences, a German university with a long tradition of international partnerships, started the student exchange program with Silliman University in Dumaguete City the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

The first group of Ingolstadt students would spend the winter semester of school year 2012-2013 in Silliman, the DFA said.

Under the agreement, German students will spend a semester at Silliman and Filipino students will study for a semester at Ingolstadt.

"The German students will attend full credit courses at the College of Business Administration and the College of Computer Studies in the second semester of this school year," the DFA said.

Philippine Ambassador to Germany Maria Elinde Xavier, the DFA said, "This student exchange signals closer cooperation in the field of education."

Santiebal met recently with Ingolstadt professor Axel Ender, student exchange program director, to discuss education cooperation between the Philippines and Germany and finalize required documents of visiting students.

She briefed Ender on the Department of Education's Enhanced basic to Year 12 (K to 12) program, the administration's Bayanihan education program that aims to produce highly qualified high school graduates by adding two years to the basic education cycle, which is currently 10 years.

The K to 12 program, which is being implemented in phases, has gained support in the international community including Germany.

The German government is also supporting the introduction of a basic German language course in Philippine high schools to build a base of qualified Filipino employees who can speak the European language.

Santiebal and Ender talked about expanding the partnership to include apprenticeship exchange, with German and Filipino students going on internships in host universities in their countries.

Ender, a professor of external accounting and international taxation at Ingolstadt, said the Philippines was an "interesting destination for business students" as the country was an emerging market.

Good training assures quick employment

GRADUATES of the Asian School of Hospitality first (Asha) are registering high employment rates and are hired almost as soon as they leave school.

Asha says this is because of their specialized training they get through a good curriculum and a faculty that includes experts in the field.

Jane Angie Blanco says since Asha started in 2010, its graduates have become very early hot for hire by hotel and restaurant industry.

She says students are given early exposure to the industry through on-the-job training. The school has established linkages with hotels and restaurants where students can experience the actual working atmosphere.

Blanco says the school also makes sure graduates are employed immediately. She adds that Asha graduates register a 99 percent employment rate in the assessment conducted by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Jenice John Cruz, a graduate of the professional cookery course, will be joining a professional cruise liner to Europe after completing six months of study.

Bruce Caesar Blanquejal got a referral from the school, after finishing the professional cooking course.

Asha's sister company, Seven Skies Hotel and Observatory in Antipolo City.

The school adjoined the **Sidewalk of Cosmos Mile** to the could finish the professional cooking course early for her paid apprenticeship in Miami Beach, Florida, United States.

Mary de Mesa, who works at Seven Skies Hotel's pastry shop, was encouraged to study to become a full-fledged chef. Her new works and studies at the same time to complete her hotel and restaurant management course.

Asha offers scholarships to employees like De Mesa for further career development and growth.

Asha has schools in Antipolo: Ramsia, Quezon City; Sagarino City; Sariwan Esmeraldo, San Juan City; and Silver Avenue, Quezon City. Call 0917 3727798 or visit www.asha.edu.ph.

DepEd to fete literacy champions, train science educators

THE 2012 NATIONAL Literacy Conference and Awards on Sept. 17-21 in Teachers' Camp, Baguio City will give recognition to best practices in the implementation of literacy programs that promote poverty alleviation, provide livelihood opportunities and address welfare needs.

Organized by the Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC) of the Department of Education (DepEd), the conference is a culmination of Literacy Week Sept. 2-8.

To be honored are the top five winners of the Search for Outstanding Implementers of the National Literacy Programs. They will be recognized for exemplary accomplishments in literacy development.

Winners represent five categories: LCC Chair (provincial, component City, Class 1 Municipality and Class 1 Municipality).

Education Secretary Armin A. Luistro, FSC, said the annual conference aimed to share good practices in making literacy programs more widespread.

He said DepEd wanted to make more Filipinos functionally literate "by reaching out to the unreached and marginalized members of the community."

The celebration of Literacy Week is provided for under Presidential Proclamation No. 239.

Expected to attend the conference are directors of DepEd bureaus, centers and regional offices; superintendents, supervisors, principals and head teachers of elementary and secondary public and private schools.

Expected to attend are Alternative Learning System supervisors and coordinators and mobile teachers who cater to the country's 30 poverty barangays with the lowest literacy rates.

Also invited are local government executives, officers of government agencies, civil society and nongovernment organizations and corporate foundations involved in literacy or continuing education, as well as academic institutions in charge of National Service Training Program Literacy Training Service.

Meanwhile, science teachers from public and private elementary and secondary schools are required to attend the 2012 National Science Club Month (NSCM) celebrations and consult workshop to strengthen science education under the K to 12 Program.

The NSCM celebrations and seminar workshop will be held on Sept. 26-29 at the Ecocell Center, Calbog, Cebu City.

Presidential Proclamation No. 264 has declared September NSCM month.

Leaders said a strong foundation in the sciences in basic education could be a building block to a sound economy in the future.

DepEd Memorandum No. 136 said the seminar workshop would also focus on enhancing the knowledge and strategies of science teachers in the teaching of the sciences in the basic education using the Spiral Progression Scheme.

A strategic focus to science education is one of the goals of K to 12.

Science club advisers, teachers, school principals, administrators and science enthusiasts are invited to the workshop. Exhibits will showcase science, technology and environment programs, as well as best practices in research and education.

Bible Quiz finals to be held Sept. 15

FINALS for the NSCC Pasi Na Samut Bible Quiz will be held on Sept. 15 at the Manila International Book Fair, SM Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

Competing in the finals are regional champions (University of the Immaculate Conception, Davao City; Southern Mindanao); College de San Jose, Iloilo City (Western Visayas); Sisters of Mary School-Batchtown, Cebu City (Central Visayas); St. Louis University Laboratory High School, Baguio City (Northern Luzon); Instruct of Mary School-Gotokeen, Malaig, Cavite (Southern Luzon); and St. Paul College of Quezon, Bicol (Central Luzon).

They will be joined by the wild card in the National Capital Region and the so-called "dark horse" schools, which will be chosen by the quiz organizers.

The national championship, which will be hosted by celebrities, will feature not just a competition among young Bible experts but other Bible-related activities. Big prizes are at stake.

The Bible Quiz is an apostolic activity of the priests and brothers of the Society of St. Paul, incorporated with Philadelphia Asia Inc., organizer of the Manila International Book Fair.

Fun + learning for kids, adults

SUPERKIDS 2012, a two-day interactive conference and exhibition on early childhood education, is slated Sept. 14-15, as part of the Manila International Book Fair.

It will be held in Function Room 3 of the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City.

Three education experts running schools that offer alternative learning environments will speak on the topic "Alternative Forms of Learning Environments and Institutions" at 1:15 p.m. on Sept. 14.

Ruth Mandanas is director of Krys Grade School in Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City. Ani Rose Almario is director of Bayo School in Quezon City.

Rosa Primrose Lacandula is director of The Learning Tree Child Growth Center also in Quezon City.

Superkids is organized by Primrose Asia Inc. in partnership with The Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP), Asian Catholic Communications Inc. (ACCI), Overseas Publishers Representatives Association of the Philippines (OPRAP), and Philippine Booksellers Association Inc. For more details call 8676130 or 8568802 or e-mail conference@primrose.asia.com.

PAWAPAM. Almario, Lacandula

Are you a student innovator?

With the experts' help, ABSBI hopes to stimulate participants to come up with fresh insights that will help solve global problems. The group also expects young Filipinos to consolidate their experiments and open themselves up to global perspectives.

Philbio trustee Arthur Tan said, "It is our hope to inspire and motivate young students to be competitive in science and technology."

All 12 Finalist-teams will get saved money of at least P15,000 each for their respective projects. Their 60 members will get scholarships to any university in the country where they gain admission. The sponsors will pay the entrance examination fees, like the UP College Admission Test, for first choice courses in colleges or universities. All students who qualify for scholarships will also get free entrance examination review.

The school of the winning team will get a teachers' development fund equivalent to the grand prize.

While Project Bibliss initially is open only to high school students in Metro Manila, ABSBI plans to involve provincial schools in the next competition, which they hope to conduct annually.

For inquiries, e-mail john.absbi@ymail.net

St. La Salle is moot court...

competition held "a very good basis in the Philippines."

Students from 10 law schools took part in this year's event organized by ICHC, PHC and the Supreme Court of the Philippines. This year's competition was hosted by De La Salle University-Manila.

Other participants came from Far Eastern University-Manila, San Beda College of Law-Manila, Southwestern University, Ateneo Law, University of Batangas, University of the Cordilleras and Far Eastern College Law School.

The moot court exercise began in 2005 with only six participating schools. It is the only moot court competition that holds its finals in the SC's en banc session hall.

To preview and download the latest ICHC video footage in broadcast quality go to www.supremecourt.gov.ph.

Follow the ICHC on facebook.com/ateneo and twitter.com/ateneo English

For more information on the moot court, "like" the official Moot Court Facebook page at facebook.com/SCLaneteneo49th.

INTER-ED's 24TH CAREER COUNSELING & GUIDANCE FAIR

at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Sept 13 & 14, 2012

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bench/ INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

EARTH HEALERS

They're back! Cyan Asel Jaga and Jaspin Bisnar are the same wide-eyed tandem that gave the Inquirer's young readers "nail-biting serial story," "Gaya Wind and the White Crow."

Chapter 1: Mang Gorio's Cow

By Cyan Maxilyjaga
Illustrated by Steph Bravo

SOMETHING was happening to Mang Gorio's cow. Every day, more of its brown fur turned white.

"It's beginning to grow old like me," said Mang Gorio, pointing to the remaining strands of white on his head.

"I hope it's not growing bald like you, too," teased Aling Dalia, as she stabbed her son, Jopi, give his old uncle a share of their hotdog-and-pesto, gabi, empanada and samosa.

At Mang Gorio Ga'ted Dwis there every night called, "Go, stay! I look at your cow later!" Mang Gorio didn't hear him because just then, the Mayor's drill started up in the nearby mountains. The sound reverberated all around them, startling the birds and distressing the chickens.

"I wouldn't go near that cow, if I were you, Jopi. For all you know, it has some kind of strange, infectious disease. Or ... sir." Aling Dalia gulped, cursing herself. "It could be under some kind of enchantment!"

Jopi shook his head, but he took care to do it as he slipped out of the house. Now that it was summer, he had to help her with the morning's errands, beginning with drawing water from the village well. There it was unveiling and watering their vegetable patch, surveying out the yard, and putting up newly washed clothes strung on a line between their two mango trees.

Finally, he stopped for lunch. There was adlaga, cooked by Eddie, a giant of a man who helped out in many houses around Mello Village. Eddie watched as Jopi gulped down soup and gobbled up cereal and rice all dumped together in one bowl. There, as Jopi wiped his mouth, Eddie said, "When you see the cow, make for all to hide in corn white. Then, make sure you touch her on the forehead, right between the eyes. Use your point fingers."

Jopi grimaced at Eddie. Sometimes, Eddie was even stranger than Aling Dalia. But Jopi liked him. Eddie always shared the latest news, like the one about the Mayor bringing in a monster drill from the city, to work the mines in Mount Dalio. It was attached to a 50-wheeler truck and could dig straight down. The Mayor was tired of potatoes and iron bars, he wanted more gold in his mine.

Aling Cey, Eddie's mother, and the village faith healer, tried to stop him. But the Mayor just laughed in her face, and so did some of the townspeople. They told her to be grateful that the mines in Mount Dalio brought the people more jobs, and they advised her to send her big son to work for the Mayor. Instead, she asked her son to stay away from the mines and to work for people in the village.

Jopi drank the last of his soup. There was still time to take a peek at the cow before his mother woke from her siesta and found more things for him to do. He waved at Eddie and rushed out the back door and down the lane, around the plaza and raced down the open meadow to where Mang Gorio lived. He let himself into Mang Gorio's backyard, and approached the cow reflected in the shade of a narra tree.

It showed no signs of alarm or even of awareness that Jopi was there. It stood, unmoving, and Jopi would have thought it an enthroned statue, all of white enamel, had it not been for the slow and rhythmic swaying of its tail. Its tail was white. There remained only one small patch of brown right between the eyes. Was it possible? He blinked and saw just in time the last rubs of brown red into white.

The cow looked at him, then, straight into his eyes. "Moo, she said.

And he immediately did as Eddie had instructed him to, without even his full thought or sentence. He placed his right finger there, where the last of the brown had remained white.

The next thing he knew, he was lying on something hot and hard, and Aling Dalia, Mang Gorio and Eddie hovered above him.

"I'm telling you it's just sun stroke," declared Mang Gorio.

Aling Dalia swung her hands, saying, "No, it's the wind is planning to spell on him."

Jopi's forehead throbbed and realized he was on the old man's roof, inside Mang Gorio's day house. Eddie leaned forward and said, "He's awake, now."

"Stupid!" cried Aling Dalia, and grabbed her son in a tight embrace.

"I'm all right, Mommy," said Jopi, before he caught sight of himself in Mang Gorio's shirts. Because the two shone so brightly from the window and through the roof. Jopi thought his whole head of hair had turned white. When he looked again, his hair was just the same. He rushed out of bed to the window. "It happened all right!"

"What's happened?"

"The cow," said Jopi, and saw her standing right where he had last seen her, under the coconut, just swinging her tail in patiently as an almost-statue. "She told me."

"Really?" said Eddie, rushing to look out the window, too.

"Don't be silly," chided Aling Dalia. "Just go fetch my husband at the terminal already."

"Nonsense," said Jopi. "I can walk by myself."

"No, no, no," said Aling Dalia. "You are still your father-mother."

And that was all Jopi could do to salvage his left of the afternoon, staring at the ceiling, not allowed to move or even look at the cow again. Sometime he had slept long after the end of siesta, and the evening was almost upon them. Aling Dalia came before it was 6, humming, rapt in his lifestyle so that he would not miss his turn scouring boiler from the kitchen. Aling Dalia made Jopi sit beside her in the jeep and rather than behind his father.

Student activity guide

Just checking

1. What was happening to Mang Gorio's cow?
2. What does the author mean by "a giant of a man"?
3. What happened to Jopi after he touched Eddie's hand?
4. What activity is going on in Jopi's home that is running people inside?

To do or think about

1. What is the main idea in this chapter? Based on the main idea, think of another title for this chapter.
2. The word "pesto" is mentioned in the chapter. Find out the names for the other four fingers of a hand.
3. What does a faith healer like Aling Cey do?
4. Make a drawing of Jopi's house from the descriptions and details the author has included in the story.

Using the 5W1H/H

A news story usually answers the 5W+H questions: who, what, where, when, why and how. Form a group with 3 or 4 other students. Turn to the stories in the fiction section of the Inquirer. Choose 2 stories and answer the 5W1H questions for each story. Then, in your own words, how pertinent you are when reporters who have been assigned by the editor to Jopi's village. Write a news report about the mayor's activities based on the 5W+H formula.

5W + H FORMULA FOR A NEWS STORY	
STORY ONE	
Who	
What	
When	
Where	
Why	
How	
STORY TWO	
Who	
What	
When	
Where	
Why	
How	
NEWS ON THE MAYOR	
Who	
What	
When	
Where	
Why	
How	

GRADUATES proudly display their Jollibee Kid Scout diplomas.

A jolly graduation

MEMBERS of the Jollibee Kids Club (JKC) graduated recently from the Jollibee Kid Scout program.

During the program, JKC members spent weeks meeting new friends and having fun while learning new things. They returned to their respective schools in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao with new talents and skills.

The JKC graduation, hosted by Jollibee, was also attended by the members' families.

The Jollibee Kid Scout program aims to develop well-rounded children by providing fun venues where they can develop their skills and talents and meet new friends. They participate in performances and workshops with the guidance of professionals and engage in fun activities.

Adrian, now 13, and who has been a Jollibee Kid Scout since he was 7, says although he loves to sing and dance, he used to be shy. But with his new friends, he has learned to enjoy performing events in front of a big audience.

In Metro Manila, Star City and SM Megamall hosted two of the Jollibee Kid Scout graduation events, which also featured performances by the entire Jollibee gang of Jollibee, Papa, Hamp Twirlie and Yum.

JKC members showcased their talents in dancing and singing. After participating in morning games and activities, they took home goodie bags from partners Unilever Philippines, Universal Robina Corp. and Bubbly Kaliha.

The Jollibee Kid Scout program is open to all members of JKC, the biggest kids' club in the country.

Parents can sign up their children for JKC membership in select Jollibee branches. Call 8987777.

Feeding program benefits 12,000 children

THE ATENEO de Manila University's Blue Eagle Gym Tambayan feeding program is now benefiting 12,000 public school elementary children in and around Metro Manila.

Spearheaded by Ateneo de Manila's Center for Education Development (Aced), the program is being implemented in Quezon City, Pasay City, Taguig, Marikina, Valenzuela City and Cainta, Rizal.

The feeding programs in Cainta and Valenzuela are supported by the respective local governments while the feeding program in Pasig City is supported by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants and General Electric volunteers.

Ateneo president Fr. Jett Villarin, S.J., and Mel Orosco, director of Aced, said the feeding program was a way "of lifting the poverty menace with many hours."

The program, supported by Ateneo Professional Schools (including the Graduate School of Business, Law School, School of Medicine and Public Health and School of Government), held recently the blessing of a new canteen for them at Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School.

Former Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., said, while they were happy about the new kitchen, "we are even happier that they [school volunteers] and Blue Eagle program staff] surrounded even when times were difficult."

Ateneo's vice president for social development Jaime Bautista said "if the youth are the hope of the country, the parent volunteers and other volunteers are the hope of the hope of the country."

A donation of P1,495 to the Bleuplate

ADMU president Fr. Jett Villarin, S.J., with Bleuplate beneficiaries

program, equivalent to P11.50 per day can feed a child for a whole school year.

Contact Aced at 4266001 local 4020 or 4021 or e-mail cenetas@ateneo.edu

Deadline for online contests to honor teachers is Sept. 12

A NEWCOMER online poster-making, photography and video-making contests will give participants a chance to honor their teachers through pictures, posters or videos.

The deadline for submission of entries is Sept. 12. Finalists will be uploaded on the Internet for public viewing and online voting.

The Department of Education, with Smart Communications, launched the contests as part of the 2012 National Teachers' Month and World Teachers' Day observances.

Education Secretary Armin A. Luistro, FSC, said the contests were hoped to encourage elementary and high school students from public and private schools to express creatively through multimedia how much they valued their teachers.

Luistro said creative ways were actually heroes, as it was proper to give them the recognition they had already earned and truly deserved.

The contests, being online, would allow the display of students' entries with a bigger audience to make Teachers' Day as widely observed as Mother's Day and Father's Day, he said.

They would also help build public awareness and support for National Teachers' Month and World Teachers' Day every October, Luistro added.

The poster-making contest is for elementary pupils while the photography and video-making competitions are for high school students.

The first-prize winner in each category will get P5,000 and a certificate. Second prize is P3,000 and a certificate. Third prize is P2,000 and a certificate.

Each school can submit only one entry in each category. Except in the video contest, every participant can submit only one entry.

The teacher who inspired the winning entry, as well as the head of the winner's school, will also receive a certificate and a prize.

Official entries will be open for online voting on Sept. 15-30. Awarding will be on Oct. 5 during the World Teachers' Day celebration at Adrian Lindbohm Center in Cagayan de Oro City.

Next Monday:
The Underground Rat